


The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert

Authors' surnames beginning with

J



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Jacks, L. P.

The Country Air; New York, Henry Holt and Company;
London, Williams & Norgate; 1917 (Vol. 4 of Writings by) 233p

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I did not have time to read this book before selling it
to Blitz Books.

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(1) tells of a philanthropical shoemaker, head of the local Ethical Society, who with the help of the rector's wife, a former actress and singer, buys out his former landlord and leaves him in possession because it seems the greatest good. (2) outlines Bob's gifts as a medium and his out-of-the-body experiences as he learns about the stars. (3) tells of how Bob succeeded in breeding a superior kind of sheep with instinctive knowledge of the laws of Mendelism. (4) describes Bob being thrown into a trance by Mrs. Abel's reading of Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale". (5) and (6) tell of the visit to England paid by Chandrapal, contemptuous of western progress but impressed by Bob, who identifies with Bob mystically. (7) tells of Bob suffering psychically the burns of Toller who suffered them physically. (8) Whether the invisible companion is Christ or a guardian angel is not clear, but Bob used him as a guide and mentor. (9) How the invisible companion went with Bob to death.

This book whose fantasies I have asterisked involves a rather unusual treatment of psychic phenomena, Bob being a natural mystic, possibly with powers akin to those of Edgar Cayce (of whom I have read nothing, but am merely inferring). Very well-written, and with an apparent acceptance of the supernormal, it should be retained for reference.

Jacks, L. P.

Philosophers in Trouble: A Volume of Stories; London,
Williams and Norgate, 1918 (Vol. 3 of Writings by) 210pp

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All but 1 & 6 were reprinted in "The Magic Formula and
Other Stories"

Jacks, L. P.

The Stolen Sword: The Tale of an Unbroken Covenant;
London, Methuen & Co. Ltd. (1938) 192p.

To this extremely well-written novel is attributed both allegorical and autobiographical significance in addition to its being weird and mystical.

An authority on swords and armour is very proud of his 500 year old sword which he claims was used at Agincourt. It is like a stone sword held by a statue of St. George, and which was broken off and replaced by a steel sword declared genuine by the firm of Rodright, but claimed to have been manufactured by them by the authority. This claim was disputed in court, and the authority lost his first court case, unjustly.

The authority, being convinced that his own sword was genuine and unique, at first did not fear that it would be stolen, and did not even insure it. An avid collector, he mortgaged his personal worth to build up his collection, and when the sword was stolen, it represented much of his net wealth. He did not long survive the loss, his life having been identified with the welfare of the sword in his home.

His son, an Orientalist, and his daughter Dorothy became attached to the sword as a fetish, discovering almost by chance that it had replaced in the hand of the statue of St. George the false sword which had been riven in twain by a bolt of lightning. A Bengal tiger, escaping from a circus, had attacked a harmlessly insane woman who, with her illegitimate child, worshipped in the church of the statue, killing her, though the child was saved, and being in turn killed by St. George's sword as if the statue had wielded it. A giant who had apparently pursued the woman while she was an equestrienne, was also one of a gang determined to steal the sword; the Orientalist, knowing mystically of the plot, engages the narrator of the second part of the story, his student in the Chinese language, to help his sister foil the plot and ensure that the sword will not be dishonored, if the Orientalist, who is subject to strange absences of mind and may die at any moment as the result of defacing injuries sustained in the past, should die.

The student and the sister foil both the robbers and the police when an attempt is made on the sword, and despite the turmoil carry out their covenant with the brother. The story ends with the body of the brother, clutching the sword, being cast into the sea.

The Orientalist believes himself to have been the reincarnation of the maker of the sword, and possessed by the spirit of his father, or at least guided by his spirit. The armour authority has given warnings of peril to the sword.

Probably this story is more significant than my intelligence comprehends, but even as a simple story, it is good.

Jackson, Basil

Epicenter; New York, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. (1971)
234p.

An earthquake causes two used fuel bundles to jam in the conduit leading to the water tank from which they usually were lifted and disposed of. Johnson, director of the atomic energy power plant, decides to break off the conduit and lift it with the fuel bundles, but the conduit breaks, freeing the radio-active emission. This pollutes the air, causing evacuation of Toronto. The theme is mainly the danger involved in building energy plants so close to large centers of population.

Johnson's wife, a buyer for a clothier, and he are on the verge of divorce; she is a swinger, though only once unfaithful during a buying trip to Rome; he is a quiet studious engineer. A cleaning woman and her deaf-mute daughter meet Johnson's wife and she helps them through the emergency, then decides to become reconciled to her husband. MacGregor, who tries to free the fuel units, is irradiated, and dies in the course of a few days; he leaves a wife and two children, who go to live in a farmhouse where they have been billeted during the emergency. A demolition squad worker becomes a character through whose eyes a serious fire in Toronto is seen, but the main factor of the book is the emergency and how it is dealt with by the authorities.

The details of this book are like those in Judith Merrill's "Shadow on the Hearth"; the dangers of radiation, the disturbance of household routine, the wondering about missing members of the family, the reactions of different types of people, and the many consequences of the disaster, unforeseen and unprepared-for, are illustrated. This is a cautionary tale; the plot is insignificant, the characters barely adequate; the action minimal.

As contemporary science fiction, it is about average; but the author, a journalist who is science editor of the "Financial Post", has worked out the details carefully in the light of present knowledge, has issued a warning that should be heeded.

Rage Under the Arctic; New York, W. W. Norton & Company
Inc. (1974, Jackson); Frontispiece 220p.

Millwood, commander of a computerized submarine oil tanker and accompanied by Eva, an electronics expert, and a second in command, and carrying an oil millionaire as a passenger, is forced by an electrical failure to handle the tanker manually, but in surfacing breaks the outer skin of the tanker, allowing the oil to escape.

In efforts to locate a clear space of open water, he has again to surface, further damaging the tanker when hit by an iceberg. Repairs are impossible, and ultimately the tanker sinks, allowing the oil to surface and drift through the arctic waters, over the top of the continent and down the east coast of Canada and the U. S. A. to Boston harbour.

The story tells of the international efforts to contain the oil spill and to find an effective means of removing the vast quantities of oil from the world's waters. Jackson, as usual, has done a thorough job of research in accumulating the technical details necessary to support the action, and his novel is a sober warning of the dangers to the ecology which are posed by the current careless and irresponsible regulations and laws governing the transportation of oil by tankers.

The minor thread of romance between Millwood and Eva is nicely handled, but the story itself is the presentation in fictional form of the warning about the danger to the world if adequate safeguards are not implemented.

As in others of Jackson's novels, the dangers of modern technologies are graphically described; and the forces of business and politics which exert pressure against adequate safeguards are presented realistically and in low-key emphasis. As with Arthur Hailey's novels, the characters are shown to be competent in their special disciplines, but helpless to do more than give recommendations to the powers that be.

These gigantic tankers are a menace, and remind me that the tremendous jet planes pose equally terrible problems.

Jackson, Charles

The Fall of Valor: A Novel; New York, Toronto, Rinehart & Co. Inc. (1946, Jackson) 310p.

John Grandin is 44, ten years older than his wife, a college professor who has just had a book published by Scribners. They have two children, boys. For some time John has been absorbed more in the boys and his books and students than in his wife, often sleeping on a couch in his study instead of going to bed.

His wife has loved him devotedly, and always prepares for his love-making, but finally feels that she means little to him, and when an alternative of two weeks vacation in summer or three in early fall presents itself, they agree to take the earlier period as a "second honeymoon", leaving the boys with Ethel's parents while they laze on the beach near Nantucket. On the first day, however, Ethel's feelings get the better of her and she tells John that they can no longer continue their relationship; it is her intention to leave the boys with her parents and live with them herself until she can make up her mind about her future.

While going by train and boat to their island vacation place, John is attracted by a Marine captain, built like a Greek god, who has been married for only a day to a girl who had been his pupil, and whose name he could never remember. Clifford Hauman had been seriously wounded at Guadalcanal, and lived only to return to combat duty, but had known the girl for eight years, liked her, and married her because she loved him. She refuses to face the possibility that Cliff will be accepted for further duty, and likes him more for his uniform and at a distance than while they are love-making, because she feels as if he treats her then like "dirt".

Before declaring himself to Cliff, John hears Cliff say that John reminds him of a teacher who taught him and a classmate, coaching them before exams, who once made homosexual advances to him and was repulsed. Cliff takes sex as casually as possible, and tells John that he prefers it when with a pal: that it is no fun alone with a girl. John takes a cap of Cliff's as a souvenir, and when his wife discovers it in his luggage, admits his recognition of the homosexual attraction, but says it will never develop. His wife (and John himself) wonder if his latent homosexuality accounts for his sexual neglect of Ethel; but when Ethel leaves him, John invites Cliff to visit him on his way to duty, and when he makes advances to Cliff in John's apartment, Cliff picks up heavy fire tongs and bashes in John's face. John gets a letter from Ethel, indicating that she still loves him and if there is no possibility of contact with Cliff, she will come back to him. The letter reaches John just as he recovers from the beating, and he can only wish that Cliff had killed him.

This is a thoughtful, and perhaps important novel about the mixture of male and female characteristics comprising the personality of most people, and a plea that people should be accepted for what they are, rather than for any conventional appraisal of them. It did not seem to me to be in the class of the author's first novel.

Jackson, Charles

The Lost Weekend; New York & Toronto, Farrar & Rinehart, Inc. (1944, Charles R. Jackson) 244p.

This is the narrative, told from the point of view of an alcoholic, of the events of five days in his 33rd year.

Judging on the basis of what I have read of alcoholism, this is an excellent fictional representation of the state of mind of the alcoholic. The basic problem seems to be the inability of the alcoholic to work slowly and steadily towards fulfilment of his aspirations, and his discouragement and sensitivity to every failure which emphasises his inadequacy. Many potentially intelligent and even brilliant people can visualize or imagine their goals so clearly that they must always be discouraged by the imperfections which mark every step of progress toward achievement. Consequently the dream is always more satisfactory than reality, and alcohol is the resource which dulls reality and sets the physical and mental ease for the dream.

The story is simple. Don Birnam was kicked out of his college fraternity because of an indiscreet letter he had written to an upper classman; he had always been favored and praised by family, teachers and friends whose suggestions had created a goal almost impossible of achievement, so that each mistake or failure made Don withdraw from any attempt to work because he feared the hurt which imperfection would entail. His brother and the girl who loves him do everything they can to help him, but he lies, steals and frustrates all their efforts because only alcohol supplies the euphoria which makes life endurable.

The hell in which the alcoholic lives is clearly depicted; the torture of mind and body, the humiliation, the consciousness of defeat, the blackouts of memory which expose him to constant fear of accusations against his behavior while drunk, the alterations of personality, and the confusion which these entail.

I find such accounts fascinating because they demonstrate so clearly the appeal of fantasy by contrast with the problems of reality which are often too great for the individual to cope with. Anyone interested in the psychology of fantasy should find this book most helpful.

Jackson, Giles

Hitch's Moon

The Dial Press, New York, 1941

224 P.P.

This is a murder mystery, the only fantasy element being the introduction of astrological forecasts of danger on the night of the killings.

It is ingeniously worked out, but the probabilities are stretched beyond credibility.

It contains practically nothing of permanent value.

Jackson, Jr., Herbert G.

The Spirit Rappers; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1972; (1972, author); Bibliography 226p.

Although an index is lacking, this account of the lives of Katy and Maggie Fox supplies reprints of public accounts and is a useful reference. However, it leaves the impression, despite descriptions to the contrary, that the girls practised fraud right from the beginning in Hydesville.

The author appears simply to have accumulated sufficient material to publish a book. I believe he is himself sceptical. I cannot recall that he expressed any personal opinion.

However, this book inspired me to read some other books about the Fox family. Certainly intelligent sitters wrote about phenomena and alleged communications with the dead through the Fox girls that an opposite conclusion might be reached.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 2, 2003

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Although this title is listed in Bleiler, only the 2nd story is fantasy. Only #4, #7, and #12 might possibly qualify, mainly because of bizarre or horror elements, but I do not consider them fantasy. Therefore, apart from the horror classic, I consider that this volume does not belong in a fantasy collection.

The dozen stories are mainly based on familiar family problems and situations, and are well told. There is nothing about them to warrant re-reading, apart from pastime.

Jacobson, Edmund (M.D.)

You Must Relax: A Practical Method of Reducing the Strains of Modern Living; Revised Edition; New York/London, Whittlesey House; Index; (1934, 1942, author); 7th ptg. 261p.

I regret to say that I found the author's teaching to relax which occupies more than the first half of this book would need constant reference to enable a patient to follow. This would not aid him in relaxing, and impatience would likely increase his problem. The author is an expert, however, and I do not say that careful attention would not work.

The latter part of the book deals with sleep and high blood pressure and seems useful. He wrote a separate book You Can Sleep Well.

Possibly the index would help in using this book.

Chester D. Cuthbert
August 1, 2000



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MANITOBA

Jacoby, George W. (M.D.)

Suggestion and Psychotherapy; Illustrated; New York, Charles
Scribner's Sons, 1912 (1912, publishers); Literature; Index 355p.
London, T. Fisher Unwin, 1912 355p.

This book is seldom mentioned by others in the field, and it may be because he considers the brain to originate thought and is entirely skeptical of mysticism and supernormal phenomena. He is well read, however, and accepts automatic writing and many of the other phenomena which seem to me to be equally difficult to explain.

Many of his references are in foreign languages and he does not refer to many written by dualists.

Keeping in mind his viewpoint this is a very good study of "normal" mental and functional health problems.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 7, 2000



CUSTOMER
CENTRE

MANITOBA

Jaeger, M.(uriel)

The Question Mark; London, The Hogarth Press, 1926 252p.
New York, The Macmillan Company, 1926 249p.

This is rather a dystopia than a utopia; the author, although she accepts the likelihood that a socialistic world may come, refuses to believe that the solution of economic problems will result in an ideal humanity.

Guy Martin, a bank clerk, awakens in the 22nd century to find that a socialistic England patterned after Bellamy's Looking Backward and with slightly superior technology, has divided its population into intellectuals and normals. The former enjoy life because they have not only material but intellectual satisfactions, but the normals can exist only by striving for emotional or physical distraction from the empty existence left them by absence of challenging work.

Dr. Wayland, Guy's mentor who has resurrected him, is busy with his own interests; his daughter Ena falls in love with the novelty which Guy represents and tries to attract him, but Guy repulses her; John, an intellectual, patronizes him but encourages his independence when Guy stays by himself in a hotel. Ena's older brother is a mountain-racer who wins but feels unhappy because his triumph means nothing to his father.

In the hotel Guy meets a former manager of the hotel who has retired to a suite of rooms on the top floor and collects buttons. Guy's pretended appreciation of the collection wins the old man's friendship. A self-proclaimed messiah, who has the spell-binding power of the demagogue, influences Guy and others by his personality; but when he declares that the world is coming to an end on a certain day, Guy loses faith in him, and is justified in the loss when the day arrives and Emmanuel falls from the mountain-top in a faint or from heart-failure. Emmanuel's eloquence has influenced the button-collector to burn his collection because he is ashamed to face his dead wife with it as his sole reason for existing.

Euthanasia is available for anyone tiring of life, and no attempt is made to stop anyone from terminating existence. In spite of every educational privilege, the normals seldom make use of them, and are always quarreling because of frustration through inability to make constructive use of their leisure.

The author takes a pessimistic view of mankind; tragedy rather than happiness is the lot of the majority.

This book is very well written, but the story is simple and the utopian ideas go very little beyond those expressed by Bellamy. It is a thoughtful book, but not impressive.

Jaeger, M. (Muriel)

Sisyphus, or The Limits of Psychology; London, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd.; New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1929 94p.

This interesting essay criticizes chiefly behaviourism and psychoanalysis, but questions whether either these or any other system can possibly encompass the subject. She is more inclined to accept the findings of the novelists like Dostoevsky in portraying human beings, saying that we are all human and potentially capable of genius, madness, or mediocrity.

She mentions that it should be possible to define the limits of the subject, just as she says that Kant set out the limits of metaphysics, making it useless to waste time exploring problems which are humanly impossible of solution. I must read Kant further.

An excellent, commonsense essay.

Jaffery, Sheldon

The Arkham House Companion; Mercer Island, Washington, Starmont House, Inc., 1989; (1989, Author); Index 184p. (Starmont Reference Guide #9, HC \$34.95; Pa \$22.95)

This guide covers the first 180 titles published by Arkham House during its first fifty years, in order of the date of publication, and with approximate prices currently charged by dealers. Each title has a commentary which gives information believed reliable concerning it.

I was surprised to note that Item #41: August Derleth: 25 Years of Writing 1926-1951, which had been distributed by the author free of charge, is valued at \$250.00. Derleth sent me a copy of this with his then current stock list, and I did not realize I had it until this entry caused me to search for it among my copies of the stock lists.

This book was loaned to me by Mike Dzendzeluk, and I told Dave McClintock, who is often quoted in the book, that I might be interested in trading for a copy.

Although I have, in my file of correspondence with Derleth, some information which may not have been available to Jaffery, there is much information new to me in this book. I have posted the prices to my list of Arkhams, so there is no immediate need of a copy, and Mike can always supply me with information if required.

Jakes, John

Brak the Barbarian; London, Tandem Books (#16707),, (1970,
1976) 160p.

This is a group of short stories depicting a brawny warrior who feels fated to journey southward towards Khurdisan. He encounters adventures involving the rescue of beautiful women and makes enemies of a sorceress and her father who worship Yob-Haggoth who threatens to take over the world.

Obviously patterned om Lovecraft, Howard, de Camp, Carter, and Merritt, the first story is repeated several times in this volume. Various monsters are encountered and slain, and the continued threat of the sorceress connects the quest.

Action adventure of fantastic nature limits this book, and its appeal is probably limited to adolescents. I am reading the other two books in the series merely to see if my opinion is confirmed.

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FirstCity Trust

Jakes, John

Brak the Barbarian: The Mark of the Demons; London, Tander Books (#4260 4714), (1970) 159p.

This third adventure finds Brak rescuing brother and sister twins lost in a desert, joining a caravan which is threatened by ruby-eyed warriors of Qura and whose leader's daughter provides a romantic interest. The twins are vampire demons devoted to the elder god whose adherents have fought Brak all through his journeyings.

As in the earlier books, rescues, battles, sorcery and fate test Brak's strength, but he survives and continues his quest. This series is simple fantastic adventure, with only hints of any deeper meaning.

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CELEBRATING
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FirstCity Trust

Jakes, John

The Sorceress; London, Tandem Books (#16715), (1970, 1976)
156p.

This novel is the second concerning Brak and his quest.

The Sorceress is in possession of another formerly good girl's body, and again attempts to seduce Brak, who has rescued a shepherd girl from a monster and goes on to salvage a near-conquered state for its ruler and his son.

There is a slight improvement in the writing, but the story has no more than the elements of the first book.

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C E L E B R A T I N G
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
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C A S E F É T É

FirstCity Trust

Jakober, Marie

The Mind Gods: A Novel of the Future; Toronto, Macmillan of Canada (1976) 165p.

I have several reviews of this novel which are adequate to summarize the story and its theme. These newspaper items are all laudatory. One suggests that the author could better contribute to Canadian literature by turning to specifically Canadian background and problems; but I agree with the author that her concerns in this novel transcend nationalistic aims.

I believe that the author identifies with her narrator, Colonel Tanya Rastov. Tanya is an expert technician; a woman every bit the equal of her male compeers; an independent and resourceful thinker; a mature individual whose character and particularly her sexuality are expressed not only in thought but in action. Philosophically, she believes in free will and action; even when, under the influence of the drug DBH, she has the vision of a static universe, a unity of time and space, she suspects that this vision is an hallucination induced by the drug, and not a vision of reality.

Philosophically, I am a fatalist, and my vision of the universe is more like that of the Caronites: stasis. This, I feel, is the reality beyond the illusion of free will; the permanent existence of all events which have ever happened. For instance, I can think of no way of altering the past as I remember it, excepting by faults of memory and coloration by psychological factors in current recollection (and these do not alter the facts of the past). And no matter from what future date the past is viewed, it is static, unalterable. Like the believer in free will, my sensory and mental limitations make me subject to the illusion of free will, and I am under the necessity of acting and thinking as if free will governed me. Essentially, however, the spiritual world is the unity so vividly described by Marie Jakober as that of the Caronites.

The majority of the people with whom I have discussed this question disagree with me, so the author is probably wise to accept free will as the wiser philosophy. There can be no proof of which is right, because of our limited knowledge and faculties.

The author's style and presentation of this story are far more mature than mine would be, despite the disparity of our ages. I consider the novel to be among the most important Canadian science fiction and fantasy books I have read, and I hope that the author will continue to contribute to the field rather than turn to mainstream writing.

James, Alice

The Diary of Alice James; Edited by Leon Edel; Illustrated; London, Rupert Hart-Davis, 1965 (1934, Dodd, Mead & Company, Inc.; 1964, Edel); Index 241p.

Although vigorously and intelligently written, this is disappointing as an expression of the personality of the invalid sister of William and Henry. Its principal value is that it confirms the loving care which her brothers and her family gave to Alice, and the respect and admiration which she in turn gave to the achievements of her father and her brothers.

An interesting item is that the tunnel under the channel is discussed, and the fear expressed that it would open a means of invading England.

Fortunately, the index can refer anyone to items of value in studying the James family.

(James), Allen, Gay Wilson

William James: A Biography; Illustrated; New York, The
Viking Press (1967); Chronology; Genealogical table; Notes;
Index 556p.

Although this personal and family biography of James has mainly his family background and personal life as its subject matter, the final assessment of his work is of great interest and value. Much trivial information is given, but all the main events of his life, his relationships with his brother Henry and sister Alice, and his wife, are detailed, and the book is a valuable reference.

I doubt that I would take the time to re-read this book, but the index would be useful for special information.

James, David

Madonna: Her Complete Story: An Unauthorized Biography;
Lincolnwood, Illinois, Publications International, Ltd., (1991)
Illustrated 80p.

This is a poorly written summar of the "Star's" life, from sources apparently limited to newspaper and magazine accounts and worthwhile only from the illustrations which portray Madonna in various situations.

She is a hard worker, ambitious and determined to achieve her worldwide fame by any means avaiable; I would say she deserves her success.



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James, Henry

The Aspern Papers; New York, Albert & Charles Boni,
1924 176p.

Told in the first person, this is the story of a man who learns that an old flame of his favorite poet may possess papers concerning him. She lives in an old castle in Venice; he plots successfully to become her lodger, enlists the aid of her niece who falls in love with him, pays exorbitant rent for the rooms and improves the garden, is discovered by the shrewd old lady and denounced, is offered the papers by the niece after the death of her aunt on condition of marriage, but when he considers this preposterous, the niece destroys the papers just as he had made up his mind to marry her in order to have them.

Although well-written and interesting, this is a **society** story of only incidental interest to me. There is a refinement of manner which alleviates the scheming, but does not excuse the deceit. A morality story, ironical and instructive.

James, Henry

Daisy Miller; London, Martin Secker (1915) 117p.
New York, Dell Publishing Company, Inc. (#800, D181, &
9154) Pages 127-191

See "The Turn of the Screw" for details of the paperback edition.

A young American is attracted to a beautiful young girl visiting Europe from America with her mother, and accompanied by a courier who seems to have more influence on the women than his position indicates. At a future meeting in Rome, she spends most of her time with an Italian fortune-hunter who is handsome but not a gentleman, and despite the disapproval of the young American's aunt and her hostess and friends, the girl, Daisy Miller, goes her own way, defying convention. A loss of her reputation results, and when she contracts fever after meeting the Italian, she dies of it. The American man learns then that the Italian considered her "innocent" and the loss of her reputation was entirely due to her defiance of the conventions.

This is a "society" novelette, and is of interest only to people who live by the conventions.

James, Henry

Julia Bride; Illustrated by W. T. Medley; New York and London, Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1909 84p.

I found this short novel a boring exercise in writing, and may not have grasped the significance of the story. Julia has been engaged six times, her mother divorced twice, and she has not yet managed to attract a financially advantageous marriage. To clear the way, she meets and supplicates her stepfather and a former suitor, begging them to vouch for her integrity and purity. Both promise, in return for social blessings which she is in a position to bestow on their newly intended brides.

In the end she feels that they will not succeed in fulfilling their promises, and feels bitter.

Her beauty is her one attraction, and it is fading.

This story has no attraction, and little interest for me.

James, Henry

The Turn of the Screw, and Daisy Miller; New York, Dell
Publishing Company, Inc. (#800), (1898 & 1926) 191p.
(#D181), 8th ptg., May, 1961) 191p.
(#9154), 12th ptg., June, 1963) 191p.

Having read the first story years ago, I read only the
second from this volume. See my notes on it under its own
title in the non-fantasy notes.

(James) Kallen, Horace M.

The Philosophy of William James: Drawn from His Own Works; Preface and introduction by Horace M. Kallen; New York, The Modern Library (#114); Dates and Family Names; Works; 375p.

This appears to be a good summary of the philosophical works of James, arranged to provide the reader with an overview rather than a detailed study.

(James) Knight, Margaret

William James: A Selection from his writings on Psychology; Edited with a Commentary by Margaret Knight; Harmondsworth, Middlesex, Penguin Books (Pelican #A229), (1950)
248p.

Although I read this entire volume, aside from the introduction which deprecates Pragmatism, most of the material I have in other volumes of James's works. Still, this book does show how James survives in England, and is worth keeping for reference.

(James) Perry, Ralph Barton

In the Spirit of William James; Indiana University Press
(1958), (1938, Yale University Press); Index 211p.

The first essay, comparing the lives and the differences in the philosophies of James and Royce, I found the most interesting in the book; the others were more philosophical and difficult to follow.

Perry drew on his 2-volume biography of James for some of the material in this book, but in general it is a support of James's viewpoint and a confirmation of his philosophy.

(James) Perry, Ralph Barton

The Thought and Character of William James; Briefer Version; Portrait; New York, George Braziller, Publisher, 1954 (1935, Henry James; 1948, President and Fellows of Harvard College); Abbreviations; Index 402p.

The 2-Volume first edition of this work won a Pulitzer Prize. The first part is easy reading, consisting mainly of letters of the James family, showing their close love and family relations, surprising me that the ties of affection lasted life-long. The second half of the book is heavier reading, since it compares James and other philosophers and shows how and why he influenced them and knew them.

Although this book should be retained for reference, I do not think it is worth re-reading entirely.

Consult the index for references to a course of lectures which James gave on various abnormal psychological subjects; these were never written out, so apparently survive only as notes for the lectures. This would be a worthwhile project for the SPR to publish.

(James) Roth, John K. (Editor)

The Moral Philosophy of William James; Edited and with an Introduction by John K. Roth; New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Company (1969, Publishers); Chronology of James's Life; Bibliography; Index 355p.

Since the entire contents of this volume are reprints from James's works, excepting the introduction, only the arrangement and selection and index are useful. As I had not read the Psychology: Briefer Course, or Pragmatism, the selection from these volumes was read from this book.

I have found James's philosophy heavy going, but I respect his reasoning, and sympathize with his point of view, though I am a determinist whereas he was devoted to free will. It is his attitude towards psychical research that I am mainly concerned with, and this is hardly mentioned in this volume.

James, Stuart

Jack the Ripper; based on the original screen play by Jimmy Sangster; Plus Bill Doll's factual account of the actual "Ripper" murders--the most infamous series of unsolved crimes in the history of Scotland Yard; New York, Frederick Fell, Inc. (1960, James and Mid Century Productions) 157p.

This is a gruesome representation of the case in fictional form, alleging the "Ripper" to be a doctor in a hospital in the Whitechapel district. An American detective assists the Scotland Yard man in charge of the investigation, and falls in love with the niece of a doctor who is a prime suspect. The action naturally centers about the hospital and the bars where the girls who are the target victims gather.

The factual account at the back of the book is sketchy, but should be referred to in view of the doubt that all the murders were perpetrated by one man.

James, William

Human Immortality: Two Supposed Objections to the Doctrine; London and Toronto, J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd. (Second Edition, 1917); (U.S.A. 1908) 80p.

The entire text of this second edition is reprinted in William James on Psychical Research.

James rejects the materialist position, and adopts the "transmission" hypothesis that the brain merely acts as an organ of mind using only those faculties which enable the individual to cope with the demands of the conscious world.

He accepts the reality of the unconscious or subliminal self and relates it to the soul, but says that from a psychological point of view there is no necessity for the term "soul" since psychology deals with the mind and its data, and only psychical research endeavors to understand the permanent or immortal personality.

There is no need to keep this book, since I have both the hardcover and paperback of the larger volume.

James, William

Memories and Studies; New York/London/Bombay, and Calcutta, Longmans, Green, and Co., 1912 (1911, Henry James Jr)
411p.

The more important of these essays have been reprinted in other volumes, but the memorial addresses and several of the essays should be kept for reference and to complete the author's work. All are well written; the articles on Blood, Spencer, Davidson and Emerson summarize James's views on the value of their work.

For me, the most important are the two on psychical research, which are both reprinted on the volume reserved for his writings on the subject.

James, William

Selected Papers on Philosophy; London & Toronto, J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., New York, E. P. Dutton & Co. (1917, 1918, 1924); Introduction by Charles M. Bakewell; **Everyman's Library** #739 273p.

These essays are all reprinted from primary volumes of James's works, and some of the footnotes of the original appearances have been omitted.

This volume can, consequently, be discarded if I obtain his complete works as they were published.

James, William

The Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study in Human Nature; Being the Gifford Lectures on Natural Religion delivered at Edinburgh in 1901-1902; 38th Impr.; London/New York/Toronto, Longmans, Green and Co., 1935 (1902, James); Index 534p.

The classic exposition of religion as a personal and incommunicable experience of individuals, and the deprecation of theological and philosophical "systems" of religion makes this a collection of accounts taken from autobiographies and biographies of the leaders of various cults, and James expressly states that his examples are extreme for emphasis.

The range of experience is wide, from pathological to mystical, and the chapters on saintliness are fascinating.

Told from the point of view of psychology, it ignores organized or ecclesiastical systems in favor of practical experience, and outlines the pragmatic view originated by C. S. Pierce. At the close of the book, James states his hope that he may live to publish another book which would give the outline here presented extended treatment.

New American Library; Mentor Book #MQ737; Foreword by Jacques Barzun; Index 406p.

Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc. (Dolphin Books #C71), n.d.; Index 478p.

James, William

The Will to Believe and Other Essays in Popular Philosophy; New York/London/and Bombay, 1907 (1896, James); Index
332p.

Although much of this volume is beyond my ready grasp, it convinces me that James was a strong and original thinker who refused to accept the philosophies or beliefs of others without careful examination.

Much of the book has been reprinted in other volumes, but this book should be retained.

(James, William) Edited by Gardner Murphy and Robert O. Ballou

William James on Psychical Research; Frontispiece portrait
Introduction and concluding remarks by Gardner Murphy; New
York, The Viking Press, 1960; Index 339p.

Including the entire text of the second edition of Human Immortality, the Ingersoll Lecture for 1898, this comprises all known writings of James bearing on the subject of psychic phenomena, though, of course, many of his psychological and philosophical writings are important for their bearing, also.

One of the best cases on record is narrated in the chapter entitled Clairvoyance, Levitation, and "The Astral Body". Also important is the reprint of James's report on the Hodgson control of Mrs. Piper, since James and Hodgson were close friends.

This is an important book, and should be retained.

Paperback Edition, Viking Compass Book #C265, Second printing, June, 1973, appears to have been prepared from the original plates of the hardcover edition.

Jameson, Malcolm

Bullard of the Space Patrol; Edited by Andre Norton;
Cleveland and New York, The World Publishing Company (1951,
Street & Smith Publications, Inc.) 255p.

Bibliographical notes: (1) This was reprinted as a Nova
Science Fiction Novel #2 in Great Britain.

(2) All stories appeared in Astounding, months and years noted.
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I read this book primarily because Bob Welling has it on
his want list.

These stories follow the career of Bullard from beginning
to supreme command, and are all above average space adventure.
They are worth re-reading from the magazines, primarily if some
idea of space ship discipline and problems is sought.

Although I found the book interesting my current interest
(May, 1979) in space adventure is not high, so I will sell the
book if Bob wants it.

Jameson, Malcolm

Lunatics' Dance (SHORT STORIES, June, 1942 Canadian Edition, p. 171-173. Vol. CLXXVI, No. 6, Whole No. 859.)

In this autobiographical account, Jameson says that his father was an officer of the institution in which this incident took place, and goes on to describe the terror of a heavy rain and hail storm which threatened to throw into a panic the Friday night dance at which an orchestra (4-piece) came out from San Antonio, Texas, and played for square dances, for a hundred patients and a score or so of sane people who joined in. Fearing that the heavy water through which they must wade back to the dormitory might frighten the patients, the attendants carried them piggy-back from the dance auditorium. There was no panic, and the patients appeared to have enjoyed themselves, but Jameson says it was his first trying moment as a child.

This item appeared under the heading Adventurers All, a regular fact feature of the magazine.

Jameson, Storm

In the Second Year; London/Toronto/Melbourne and Sydney,
Cassell and Company Limited (1936) 300p.
New York, The Macmillan Company, 1936; (February, 1936, Publishers) 311p.

Placed in the near future, this novel portrays England under an oppressive government constrained by budget deficiencies to crack down on communists and subversives who are executed or made dwell in concentration camps. The narrator is a professor, cousin of the Prime Minister, at home to live with his sister on vacation and who is appalled at the conditions he finds. His brother-in-law is a soldier whose Volunteers have helped empower the Prime Minister, a close friend more important than his wife, who has had to accept his womanizing because she loves him and has no interest in anything else.

The professor learns that the Prime Minister feels he must have the General executed because the General will not stand for having his Volunteers disbanded because of fiscal restraints. He tries to escape back to Norway with his sister, but she suicides when she learns of her husband's execution (really assassination).

The general situation bears an uncanny resemblance to Canada economically as it is in February, 1994. The same emphasis on money as more important than people. The same oppression of the poor and unemployed. I wonder if the current rebellion in Mexico will be repeated here in Canada.

5. Technical Coordinators (attach additional pages if required)

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Janet, Pierre (M.D.)

The Major Symptoms of Hysteria: Fifteen Lectures Given in the Medical School of Harvard University; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1913 (1907, publishers); December, 1913 reprint; Index 345p.

Although so highly technical that I was unable to understand a great deal of the text, this book mentions several of my special interests like hypnosis and multiple personality and the index is helpful in finding Janet's views.

Diagrams illustrate vision problems and Janet appears to have succeeded Charcot at his school even though he disagreed with Charcot in many respects. The Nancy school is mentioned with respect.

I have read only one other of Janet's books, which I liked better than this one.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 12, 2000

Janet, Dr. Pierre

Principles of Psychotherapy; Translated by H. M. and E. R. Guthrie; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1924; (1924, The Macmillan Company); Index 322p.

This is an excellent eclectic summary of its subject, which gives adequate consideration to animal magnetism, mesmerism, psychoanalysis, Christian Science, New Thought, and primitive magic and religious practices. Janet believes in basic facts applying to all methods of treatment, and says it should be recognized that mental or nervous illnesses are merely serious degrees of illnesses which are common to most people, but have disabled functionally those who cannot cope with their problems. He thinks that treatment is mainly the adjustment of the patient to his family, friends, work, and his social environment; and that various methods of activity, rest, arousal of interest, stimulation of physical and mental health.

This book should be retained for reference. It is an impartial and sensible survey. Janet believes that hypnosis will be revived, perhaps under other names, and that it has usefulness which should outweigh its disreputability.

Janson, Hank

Lover; Gold Star Book IL7-12; Derby, Conn., New International Library, Inc. (40¢) 127p.

Copyright by G. Gold and D. Warburton, this is a competently written and constructed mystery, with the usual accoutrements of the modern private eye, Janson being a Chicago Crime reporter who investigates the kidnapping and murder of a beautiful movie star. Starting in Chicago, the scenes culminate in Hollywood, and the characters make it seem a corrupt and despairing life in spite of its glamour.

As is usual with mystery stories, the plot is complicated for the purpose of the story, but when the mystery is solved, becomes insignificant. As pastime, reading is interesting, but the book has no permanent value.

Janvier, Thomas A.

The Aztec Treasure-House: A Romance of Contemporaneous Antiquity: Illustrated by Frederic Remington; New York and London Harper & Brothers, 1899; (1890, Publishers) 446p.

This book appears to have had many printings and was likely collected, not only because it is a superior "lost race" novel but because of the 19 plates by the famous western artist.

Although very well written and researched, the style of the author is leisurely and detailed by comparison with the speedier narration of "pulp" writers. The book is ornately bound with gold ornamentation.

Told in the first person by a professor of archaeology, it is mainly an adventure story of a treasure hunt in Mexico and the discovery of a hidden valley populated by survivors of an Aztec civilization of a thousand years ago.

The characters and incidents are well described, and although the escape with treasure is somewhat fortuitous, and the treasure fabulous, the reader's sympathies are well enlisted.

Chester D. Cuthbert
May 23, 1999

Janvier, Thomas A.

In the Sargasso Sea: A Novel; New York and London, Harper & Brothers Publishers (1898, publishers) 293p.

This is one of two ex-library copies of books by Janvier I purchased from Richard H. Minter nearly fifty years ago. Kevin Cook asked questions about The Isle of Dead Ships by Crittenden Marriott, and after reading it I noticed this book and decided to read it for comparison.

The setting of both stories being the same, incidents also are similar, but this tale is told in the first person and very realistically, whereas the Marriott book is a romance with the usual love interest.

In both a Spanish galleon loaded with treasure rewards the protagonists. Janvier details the adventures of his protagonist who encounters two other men only and these fight each other to the death, whereas Crittenden describes a settlement of people.

The lonely explorer reminds me of The Purple Cloud by M. P. Shiel and Robinson Crusoe. Janvier writes simply and well.

Aside from the setting, neither book is fantastic: they are both adventure stories.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 22, 1996

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The Ginkgo Tree; New York, Farrar & Rinehart, Inc.,
(1935, Jarrett) 339p.
London, Arthur Barker, Ltd. (1935) 319p.

Like Strange Houses, this is an intricately-plotted story, but it does not qualify as fantasy. I do not know why it is so classified in Bleiler.

It is the story of Richard Horne, whose father is a libertine, a glutton, and a vengeful wastrel. Richard has befriended the child-daughter of a minister who lives next door, and whose wife had run away from him because she rejected his excessive sexual demands; following which he inveighed against the "sins of the Flesh", would not permit his daughter to associate with boys, yet was a weekly glutton himself.

Richard's friendship with Rachel included a code which enabled Richard's father to entrap the girl to a midnight rendezvous and seduce her, she believing it was Richard. Arnold Horne, whose wife had covered up on other occasions for him, told his son that he must marry Rachel to save his mother from a fatal heart attack. Richard was engaged to marry a beautiful blonde heiress, but for the sake of his mother and of Rachel, elopes with Rachel, then takes her to Paris where he is studying architecture.

Richard's father and mother visit the couple in Paris, but with the help of a friend, Rachel is secluded in a sanatorium during her late pregnancy. She does not see Richard's parents, but after leaving Paris, Richard's father returns and pursues her. Richard and Rachel have not consummated their "marriage"; Richard still loves the heiress, and Rachel blames herself for his unhappiness and promises a quick divorce after the baby is born. Following Arnold's arrival, however, she runs away to Russia, abandoning the baby in Richard's care. The baby is a "blue baby" with a weak heart, and is not expected to live for more than a few years. When Richard cannot trace Rachel, he takes the baby to his married sister's and leaves her there in loving care.

Returning to visit his sister, Richard is pursued by his father who threatens blackmail by revealing the story to Rachel's stern parent. On the point of surrendering to his father's demands, Richard is saved when his father sustains a fatal fall from the skeleton of the hospital building which Richard has designed. Rachel has been secretary to a writer next door to his sister's who wishes to marry her; but when Richard proves that he has come to love the child, Rachel agrees to stay his wife.

A serious, and well-told novel.

Jastrow, Robert

Until the Sun Dies; New York, W. W. Norton & Company,
Inc. (1977, Jastrow); Illustrated; Index 172p.

This popular science book gives an outline of the new cosmology and of the evolution of man and life generally on earth. As usual, there is no specific evidence to prove the hypotheses, but the circumstantial evidence is strong. The author believes in the possibility of life on Mars, but does not feel optimistic that life as we know it could exist on any of the other planets.

The most startling, to me, fact is stated on P. 67:
"Thought requires a great deal of chemical energy; a cell in the human brain, for example, consumes ten times more energy than an ordinary cell in the body. Only oxygen can supply the needed power. That is why plants cannot think."

As an exposition of the latest cosmological thought and belief concerning the origin of life, this is an ideal text for the general reader. It is broad in scope, and moderate in tone, admitting that science must accept many views as matters of faith rather than on the basis of scientific evidence.

On pages 23-5, Jastrow covers Olipher's discovery that almost all the galaxies which can be seen are moving away from the earth, but gradually his text seems to ignore the exceptions, and offers no explanation of them. This is an important unknown factor, and should always be kept in mind as a criticism of the expanding universe.

Jay, Victor

Devil Soul; Manchester, PBS Limited (1973), (1970 Belmont Productions Inc.) 156p.

This is a superficial occult novel, unusual only because the main love interest is between two young men.

Line Adams consults Prof. Gilbey because his friend Andy Forrest has come under the influence of Bonita Devlon, and learns from the sage that Bonita was born in 1852 and died or was buried in a sealed cave in Spain, after confessing herself a witch and satan-worshiper, in 1888. Bonita has a master named Walton, and they have moved into the mansion of Andy's father who had committed Andy's soul prior to his birth to Satan in exchange for saving him from bankruptcy and assuring his financial future.

Andy's birthdate is Walpurgisnacht, April 30th, and the friends learn that a Grand Sabbat is to be held on that night. The professor consults a high church dignitary who supplies sacred safeguards, they attend the Sabbat where they see a girl violated by the leader, and her suicide, and after being threatened by mental control, are saved by the safeguards.

Although definitely a novel of the supernormal associated with witchcraft and devil-worship, and not badly written, this book is not important in any respect.

Jayson, Lawrence M.

Mania; New York and London, Funk & Wagnalls Company,
1937 (October, 1937, Publishers) 263p.

This is the account of a year's confinement in a mental institution of a businessman who developed suicidal tendencies from overwork and worry over business and stock market reverses. It is a well-written and interesting book, with cautionary influence against permitting oneself to become overburdened with the trials of life; deciding as I did that no job is worth wrecking health for.

This book reminded me of the other similar account by a newspaperman whose health broke down from too much work, and from drinking instead of eating. (A small book).

From completely insane and out of touch with reality, a year's hospital treatment brought him back to enjoying life in the institution, and being as happy there as he might be in the usual course of life outside. One of the characters found himself happier in the institution than outside, and decided to stay in. This is not unusual; many patients find themselves unable to cope with the problems of life where they must assume responsibility for themselves.

A good book; a realistic one.

Jebb, Eleanor and Reginald

Belloc the Man; Illustrated; Westminster, Maryland, The
Newman Press, 1957; Index 172p.

Divided into two parts, the first written by Belloc's son-in-law, the second by his daughter, this summarizes the political and literary life first, and the personal and family life second, of an industrious and upright literary man. In controversy with H. G. Wells over the latter's Outline of History, Belloc won because of superior scholarship; but was starting from the religious point of view of the Catholic faith.

Jebb's account is sufficient to outline Belloc's worth, and I can see little to attract me to it, apart from his fantasies. The account of the Marconi scandal is better in this book than in Ward's life of Chesterton.

Kins, Edward.
Author of "Ginx's Baby"

Lord Bantam: A Satire (Author's Edition); New York,
George Routledge and Sons, 1872 243p.

This is a political satire, narrating how the second son of Earl Ffowlsmere, born 19 years after his brother, through the death of his wastrel elder brother, became heir to the wealthiest peerdom in England.

Brought up by a learned tutor, and with communistic sympathies, Lord Bantam opposes his father's plans for him, and joins various reform movements, religious and secular, finally marrying a girl who is a leader in eclectic religion. Though the wise old Earl gives Bantam leaway, he warns him that he is going too far, and will regret his course when the responsibilities of his estate are thrust upon him. Bantam continues his activities, though he enters the House and is a good speaker and debater, but as his views are not based on thorough study, but adapted from those of his tutor, it is not surprising that the book closes with him assuming the attitude of his father, and forsaking the radical reforms which he had previously advocated.

Very well written, this book shows that altruism can be followed only if it does not seriously conflict with self-interest. Despite the failure of the hero to implement the reforms he had advocated, the book sympathizes with those reforms and shows their necessity if revolution is not to take place.

The sly political intrigue and manoeuvring which takes place, and the impossibility of overcoming the status quo, are well described.

Jenkins, Elizabeth

Dr. Gully; London, Michael Joseph (1972, Jenkins) 268p.

Author of The Water Cure (?), one-time president of the London Spiritualist Association, doctor to Home, Tennyson, Carlyle and Darwin, impressed by Crookes's experiments with Home and Florence Cook (Corner), and having both seance and personal experiences of spiritism, Gully fell in love with a beautiful wife of an alcoholic. Their illicit relationship was broken off by Florence Ricardo, who later married Charles Bravo, who died of poisoning, April 18th, 1876, but whose murderer was never identified.

This is a fictional biography of Gully, and qualifies as fantasy because of minor spiritualistic experiences narrated. My impression is that the author would have liked to detail more fully these incidents, and accepted their reality, but was forced to concentrate on the romantic and social side of the Gully-Ricardo liason.

With both parties wealthy, and willing to avoid social mores, travel and separate domiciles made easy their amours; but the Bravo death brought inevitable publicity and showed Florence as a self-willed and egotistic person, willing to sacrifice anyone for her own advantage. She died of drink, leaving Gully his family support in his old age. Wealth had permitted him to adopt early retirement.

As a romantic novel, as a murder mystery never solved, and as a sidelight on spiritualism and its personalities in the 1870's, this interests me.

New York, Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc. (1972, Jenkins) 340p.

Jenkins, Will F.

Destroy the U.S.A.; Toronto, London, New York, Export
Publishing Enterprises Limited (September, 1950), (Quinn
Publishing Company, Inc., 1947) (Newsstand Library 141)157p.

Canadian title of The Murder of the U.S.A.

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The second story deals with wrecking a space ship on an asteroid in order to obtain jewels which are kept in a safe. The pirate is a crew member assigned the task by the Marward of Jupiter, who betrays him and the girl who is saved with him and who is a Recorder of high power. Kurland, who has been a prisoner and is assured by the Marward that his men will be freed if he obtains the jewels, saves the girl and is rewarded by his freedom. The jewels embed themselves in the Marward's body, killing him by their low temperature.

Jenkins, Will F.

The Murder of the U.S.A.; New York, Crown Publishers
(1946, Author) 172p.
See Destroy the U.S.A.

The author quotes from the Smyth report, and from John W. Campbell's The Atomic Story in support of his thesis that attack on American will come by atom bombs sent over the North Pole.

Burrow 89, one of many defense subterranean posts, is commanded by Thale whose family has been wiped out with 70 million other Americans when all major cities are bombed by an unidentified enemy. Sam Burton, his Lieutenant, has been suspicious of a girl with whom he fell in love because some of her friends had tried to pump him in Denver during a holiday; and his suspicions are confirmed when she appears as one of three people crossing the glacier near the Burrow, and he identifies a man who fell in a nearby crevasse as her Denver friend.

Thale and Burton theorize that the bombs may have been fired in Antarctica, and manage to confirm this. They have been unable to identify the enemy, and by managing to capture one of the bombs they see that although American parts have been used in its manufacture, the design is foreign and betrays the identity of its engineer. The Antarctic base is bombed out of existence, and the war criminal nation brought to answer for the attack.

This may be one of the earliest novels portraying atomic war to be published after the bomb was made. As fiction it is of minor importance, but as war science fiction is likely a pioneer.

Handi-Book Mysteries (#62), Kingston, New York, Quinn
Publishing Company, Inc. (1947) 127p.

Jennings, F. C.

Satan: His Person, Work, Place and Destiny; New York, A. C. Gaebelein; Glasgow, Pickering & Inglis; Toronto, L. S. Haynes
254p.

I find it rather strange that I read this book directly after reading a rationalistic book objecting to teachings of the orthodox church leaders. Jennings mentions only incidentally anything outside of the Bible, so this book has value only to a fundamentalist Christian.

For me it was worthwhile reading because it impressed me to understand that some devout people need only the Bible to guide their lives. One of my sisters is a Jehovah's Witness and reads nothing but the propaganda supporting her belief; a friend of mine was a First Reader in a Christian Science Church; an accountant in the insurance office where I worked was a spiritualist and his wife was a medium; and all these people were sensible and able to cope with life.

For many years I have been convinced that anything that exists must exist eternally. Since such varying beliefs are held, and human knowledge is so limited that we cannot know fundamental truth, it may be possible that the universe is so complex and malleable that it accepts all beliefs and faiths at their value to the individuals holding them. Jesus taught that faith is essential to accomplish anything; when I see a monster airplane flying overhead, or a man walking on the moon, I realize that someone or many people must have had faith that these things were possible or they would not have come to reality.

Jennings does his best to explain how Satan, created by God, could become the Adversary, but so far as I am concerned, he was wasting time over a problem incapable of solution by any human.

Yet his book may help people whose faith in the Bible guides them in life, so I feel tolerant of this and any other fantasy.

Chester D. Cuthbert
January 28, 1999

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C E L E B R A T I O N
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
C A S E F Ê T E !

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J e p s o n , S e l w y n

T h e D e a t h G o n g ; N e w Y o r k , G r o s s e t & D u n l a p (1 9 2 7 , B .
H o w a r d W a t t) 3 1 7 p .

A collector of Chinese antiquities engages Sir John to assist him in obtaining a death gong to which he has already acquired the frame. John has inherited a quarter of a million pounds shortly after his fiancée had jilted him, and is living the life of a recluse; but almost at once falls in love with the wife of a villainous rouse who has designs on the gong, and with the aid of the collector and Princess Marie, adventurous and beautiful who entices John, they go to Tunis and find that Manderson has possession of it and sensing the love that has enthralled John and his wife Sybil, plans to destroy John with the vibrations from the gong.

Imprisonment and escape, struggles with natives and with Manderson, and the single-minded search of the collector, are the elements of the story which is of no importance in any fantasy collection.

This is action and romance, but at a puerile level.

The Solange Stories; London, William Heinemann Ltd.
(1931) 285p.
New York, The Macmillan Company, 1931 (F. Tennyson
Jesse Harwood, May, 1931) 182p.

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These are all psychic detective stories, involving Solange Fontaine, daughter of an English mother and a French police laboratory scientist father, in her thirties and apparently without romantic attachments. She has a sense of apprehending evil, which forewarns her often.

(1) she foresees the future of the murderer of his wife and two children in a vision which she regards as proof that past, present and future exist simultaneously, and saves a friend from allowing the murderer to pay her romantic attentions. (2) an innocent man, accused of murder of his employer, is on the way to execution when he delays the Governor by pleading that the Governor had disclosed to him the night before in a dream who the murderer was; actually Solange had discovered the murderer and had willed the innocent man to know the information, but he had dreamed it came from the Governor and not from Solange. This is sometimes the case in psychic messages, and indicates that the author had done some studying of the subject. (3) Solange arranges for a medium whom she had known as a little girl, to stage a fake seance with a view to scaring the sister of a man allegedly murdered by his young, pretty wife into betraying her guilty knowledge of the man's death. The medium goes into a genuine trance, the spirit of the dead man appears to manifest and admits suicide, and the sister is exposed as having secreted the brother's diary in which he details the plot to suicide and have his wife convicted of murder because she had taken a lover, finding her husband abhorrent. The death of a canary in the medium's apartment, without apparent cause, gives force to the idea that the spirit of the dead man had been present. (4) An artist who has murdered his wife, gets a woman friend who is near death from disease to impersonate the wife and thus to fool Solange whom he has hired to find the wife or learn what has happened to her so that he may marry a girl whom Solange likes and who loves him. Solange visits the couple after they marry and is chilled and oppressed by the pergola wherein is the pillar holding the body of the wife. Uncovering a blackmail plot against the artist, Solange learns the truth, bluffs the blackmail artist into freeing the sick, loving artist, and decides that he has had enough punishment in living with the problem of his wife's body, believing him when he says that she died by accident. (5) a prostitute and smuggler has had a son by the one love of her life, and the son murders her when discovered robbing her treasure chest. The son is somewhat of a dual personality, suffers from recurrent dreams, and is fated to be a parricide. Solange and his lawyer follow the case to its inevitable and unhappy conclusion. A good book.

Joad, C. E. M.

After-Dinner Philosophy; with an Introductory Talk on The Need for Philosophy by C. E. M. Joad, and a Preface by J. C. Stobart, Director of Education. B. B. C.; London. George Routledge & Sons, Ltd., 1926 137p.

This series of broadcast talks between Joad and John Strachey proved Joad to be the superior, but also proved philosophy to be incapable of attaining absolute truth about anything since it is dealing with words which have only relative meaning to individuals according to their limited experience and understanding.

Chapter IV dealing with fatalism is probably the most important from my point of view, but this book is easy to read and gives an idea of philosophy as mind exercise, even if it leads to no definite conclusions.

Joad thinks clearly, but likes to demonstrate his superiority and this detracts from one's respect for him.

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Joad, C. E. M.

The Babbitt Warren; New York and London, Harper & Brothers,
1927; (1927, Publishers); Illustrated; 247p.

This is Joad at his most irritating extreme of superiority fulminating against the manners and customs of Americans. Many of his criticisms he admits apply to the English also, and he is openly admitting that America is the world leader in advancing materialistic progress. He does not accept that this is best for mankind, however, and points out that most leisure is spent in trying to recover more natural activities.

His jibes against business are trenchant and irrefutable.

He divides his arguments among Truth, beauty and Goodness, and shows that life in America does little to advance these ideals.

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Joad, C. E. M. (M.A., DLit.

A First Encounter with Philosophy: An Introduction Especially
Designed for Young Men and Women; London, James Blackwood & Co. Ltd
no date 174p.

Divided into two parts, The Problem of Morality and The Problem of Reality, this elementary text avoids technical and in depth consideration of philosophical hypotheses, and uses many of the examples repeated in the author's After Dinner Philosophy; in fact repetition is characteristic of many of his books.

Joad is a clear and competent teacher, and demonstrates that morality depends on social environment and is independent of right and wrong or good and evil. He contrasts materialism with idealism but does not attempt to elucidate innovative ideas which might only confuse beginners.

His own belief in free will is conditioned by respect for the deterministic alternative.

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Joad, C. E. M.

Guide to Modern Thought; London, Faber & Faber Limited; (January, 1933); Index 268p.

This book is devoted mainly to a clear and concise exposition of the scientific contributions of science to philosophy and literature. Beginning with a description of nineteenth century materialism, the influence of Pavlov's experiments to twentieth century materialism and to Behaviorism in psychology, he proceeds to modern physics and its contribution to idealism and denial of matter in its former conception, then to life and matter, vitalism and creative evolution, psychical phenomena, psychoanalysis and the invasion of literature by psychology.

The last three chapters were of particular interest to me. Joad was privileged to know Harry Price, and read Podmore and Myers so that he accepted the reality of psychical phenomena while being unconvinced of the correctness of any hypothetical explanations of their occurrence.

Although written for the layman rather than the expert, this volume displays a mastery of its subjects and provides illuminating commentary and a balanced critical appraisal which is perceptive and fair. His aim is exposition rather than criticism, but leaves the reader agreeing that no final answers are possible in our present state of ignorance.

I am so completely in agreement with Joad that I might have been saved considerable independent thinking if I had read the book when it was published. A similar book expounding today's views is much to be desired.

Joad, C. E. M.

Guide to Modern Wickedness; London, Faber and Faber Limited
(1939) 391p.

Lacking an index, this volume is divided into four sections: General Principles, Applications, Remedies(?), and Relief.

Having read recently several books by Joad, his repetitious examples to illuminate his reasonings become tedious, but this book does describe the problems of the Depression years well, and warns against the materialistic trend which leads to machines over people.

Joad points out that there is no absolute standard of morality and that prestige, money and power enable those in control to defy convention which they promote among the masses. He quotes socialist authors like Wells and Shaw, but agrees that capitalistic exploitation is unlikely to be overthrown except by revolution.

Himself religious and considering religion a necessity, Joad explains that science deals only with physical phenomena and is deterministic because it attributes occurrences to causes. Science cannot explain the phenomena of mind.

On page 60 he tells of attending church when the clergyman narrated several instances of psychic phenomena and recommended the congregation to reflect on them.. On page 129 he suggests that telepathy and clairvoyance may be next on the list of faculties waiting to be evolved. On pages 130-135 he develops his own ideas about the psychical phenomena.

On pages 215-216 he remarks on witchcraft, saying that an anonymous author estimated that 250,000 women were burned. In villages no woman over 45 years was left alive.

On page 259 he mentions Stapledon's Last and First Men.

In several passages he deplores the reality of poverty amid plenty and the destruction and waste of wealth to achieve scarcity.

This book is generally sensible in its appraisal of modern civilisation as tending towards decay.

Joad, C. E. M.

How Our Minds Work; London, Westhouse, 1946; Bibliography
100p.

This little book is closely reasoned and concisely outlines the views of various psychological schools regarding the actual existence and operation of our conscious and unconscious minds.

Joad dismisses the Behaviorist view that mind is merely a product of physiological processes, and concludes that there is something independent of matter which influences matter.

Although he does not accept idealism as the only reality, he rejects materialism as a philosophy.

Joad gives Freud credit for emphasising the importance of the unconscious, but refuses to accept many of the ideas which psychoanalysis promotes.

He points out that no system of psychology solves the question of freewill or determinism.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 29, 2000



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Joad, C. E. M.

Philosophy for Our Times; London, etc., Thomas Nelson and
Sons Ltd, (February 1940, Cheap Edition, 1942); Index 367p.
London, The Scientific Book Club (1942) 367p.

Following an introductory essay on the contemporary situation, this book is divided into two sections, the first showing the doubtful reality of the scientific real world, the second emphasising the reality of the world of values.

Much of the text repeats what Joad has said in other books, but his postscript and the index are sufficient to warrant this volume being retained for reference.

Joad's pessimistic view of the world caused him to believe that it could not have been created by a benevolent, omnipotent God. He values religion, but only for its uplifting influence, not for its dogma or practices.

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Joey

Hit #29: Based on the Killer's Own Account; with Dave Fisher; Chicago, Playboy Press (1974) 248p.

In his first book, "Joey" claimed to have killed 38 times. This is the detailed account of one of the most complicated of his murders. The dust jacket gives an adequate outline of the case, but I am prepared to accept the book as a true narration.

The experienced care taken by Joey in setting up the crime and carrying it out are evident from his account, and he seems to have the psychology of the various characters involved accurately assessed.

Fisher manages to keep his own views entirely out of the book and conveys Joey's story as I imagine it would be told him by Joey. As a former LIFE reporter, he should have ability to recognize the truth.

This is a self-portrait of a hired killer.



Joey

Killer: Autobiography of a Hit Man for the Mafia; with
Dave Fisher; Chicago, Playboy Press (1973) 318p.

Based on tape recordings, Fisher has edited this account of the life of a killer of 38 people. It is a realistic and probably accurate summary of a ruthless character who accepts his role as that of a businessman and who made money at any type of criminal activity which victimless crime made worthwhile.

As a sociological sourcebook, I think this work has value because I agree with Joey's basic conclusion that people will do what they wish to do regardless of laws intended to regulate their conduct: example, prohibition.

Although this is a hardboiled and cynical book, it is a sound indictment of our social and economic system, and backs up the thesis used by Camilliere in You're Paying for It.

Johnhett (Pseudonym of John Hettinger)

Our Glorious Future: A Novel in Two Parts: The Miracle Child; The Battle of the Spirits; London, The C. W. Daniel Co., 1931 308pp.

This is the story of John, born to Fred Alexander and his wife as a messenger from a great band of spirits who have determined to use him as the instrument to demonstrate their existence and authority. John is able to speak on the day of his birth; he develops rapidly, gives to the world three important messages from the spirit world, co-operates with a girl medium to illustrate spiritual powers, and then is recalled to heaven on his twelfth birthday.

This novel is merely a banal and uninspired summary of spiritualistic teachings, and is of little importance in a fantasy library. It is, however, as well written as most "spirit-teachings" books, and its fictional form would appeal to those who wish to learn the elements of spiritualistic philosophy and religion.

Johns, June

Black Magic Today; London, New English Library Limited;
(1971, Johns); Bibliography 128p.

This is a sketchy history and survey of Black Magic in the modern world, portrayed as a religious sect, a fertility cult, and often joined by people who are seeking sexual experience rather than religious exaltation.

In the author's note preceding the text, she refers to the alarming expansion in Britain today of black magic and its adherents, and points out its psychological and physical (or perhaps mainly sexual) dangers. This is not quite so credulous a book as her "King of the Witches", but it is still a superficial study. Certain points from the earlier book are recapitulated in this one, but the emphasis here is on black magic; in the earlier book, on white.

Probably sexual freedom would reduce the ranks of the black magic and witchcraft cults.

Johns, June

King of the Witches: The World of Alex Sanders; With Photographs by Jack Smith (her husband); New York, Coward-McCann, Inc. (1970), (Johns, 1969) 155p.

After forming or coaching the formation of many covens of witches, Sanders was elected King to confirm his authority as a descendant of witches and as knowing most about witchcraft in England. Initiated by his grandmother and instructed by her, he developed clairvoyant and precognitive faculties, became a healer, and after a period of orgiastic life resulting from a temporary practice of black magic, turned to white witchcraft.

Ignorant and poor originally, Alex became the substitute son of a wealthy couple who placed nearly 200,000 pounds at his disposal, enabling him to emulate the dissolute life of Aleister Crowley. Crowley did literary work, however, and Sanders seems satisfied with radio and television appearances and lecture tours about witchcraft for his income since he renounced his wealthy benefactors' bounty. The circumstances of the breaking-up of his first marriage, and the arranging of his second with Maxine, are much too vague to enable one to evaluate them.

Although trying to write objectively, June Johns shows by Chapter 11 commencing on page 88 that she accepts without adequate evidence the most incredible material. It is not clear whether what she says in this book was obtained from Alex Sanders only, or from independent sources, but aside from coven meetings which she may have witnessed, there is nothing in this book which can be accepted as truth.

The impression given is that Sanders tries to openly teach witchcraft as a "white" religion "Wicca", and is a devout man. Although this may be so, it seems incredible to me.

Johnso, Pamela Hansford (Wife of C. P. Snow)

On Iniquity: Some personal reflections arising out of the Moors murder trial; London, Macmillan, 1967; (1967, author); Index; 144pé

Feeling that the library of about fifty books kept by the killer Ian Brady, mainly devoted to kinky sex and torture, might have constituted an important influence on Brady and Esther Myra Hindley, the author wrote this book to advise caution and discretion on the part of writers and publishers of similar material, especially following the trial of Lady Chatterley's Lover. She favored width of thought and expression, but felt that censorship of some material is essential, and shows that we exercise it in our daily lives.

She was not present during all of the trial, and was there apparently as a journalist. She was impressed with the idea that Myra had been influenced by Ian, and that both were mainly thrill seekers, rebels against society and conformity. Horrified by the details of the murders, she does not dwell on them, but merely advises serious thinking about censorship.

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Johnson, Crockett

Barnaby; Garden City, New York, Blue Ribbon Books (1942,
1943, Field Publications 361p.

This is a very good book of fantasy cartoons in thirteen episodes about a little boy and his Fairy Godfather J. J. O'Malley, believed by Barnaby's parents to be a fantasy of their child. O'Malley is the chief character, and is a sort of W. C. Fields with wings.

This book is good for amusement at any time, and is well worth re-reading.

See also the sequel Barnaby and Mr. O'Malley.

Johnson, Crockett

Barnaby and Mr. O'Malley; New York, Henry Holt and
Company (1943, 1944, Field Publications 328p.

This sequel to Barnaby contains eight episodes in the further adventures of Barnaby and his friends. It is up to the standard set by the first book, and worth re-reading.

The cartoons are simple, and the dialogue is good.

Johnson, Diane

Dashiell Hammett: A Life; Illustrated; New York, Random House; (1983, Author); Select Bibliography; Notes; Index 344p

Although this biography is indispensable, its length has been extended by long quotations from Hammett's trial as a suspected Communist which could have been summarized.

That Hammett was an alcoholic, a womanizer, a shirker of family responsibilities, irresponsible and generous financially, and ended his life living on the kindness of friends and in debt, there is no doubt that his literary importance and work more than offset these weaknesses. His ability to work in spite of his tubercular illness, his dedication to fine standards of literary composition and to helping fellow writers, and his disdain for the corruption of his world and his determination to live by his own standards as his fictional heroes did, support my acceptance of his work as important.

There is in the notes a comment that his writer's block might be accompanied by his sexual impotence is interesting, but I wonder if his attacks of venereal disease played a part in this as it may have in the case of Casanova. His penchant for negro or oriental prostitutes may have been a sign of his rebellion against the standards of society.

His living in Katonah with Lillian Hellman makes me wonder what the attraction of that place was, since I believe it was where Frederick Faust resided before he went to Hollywood.

One acquaintance believed that Hammett was convinced that he would die young of TB, and therefore was careless of money and lived wildly. He accepted life as it came, however, and never complained of his lot.

As is so often the case with writers, his work was more important than his living habits. One deplores the life, but admires the accomplishment.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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January 3, 1981

Dear Member of the Eldership/Diaconate:

The following pages describe a new program designed to enhance the meaning in being an elected leader of the Church, and to increase the potential for personal and church growth. It was introduced to and approved by the Board at its December meeting. This approval was given with the understanding that the ultimate acceptance, implementation, and operation of the program depends upon you.

This program is not at all complex. With your cooperation and effort it should not take too long to become fully operational and effective. Note that some elements of the program may later be modified or eliminated, with the development by the Evangelism Committee of a comprehensive program of evangelism for our congregation.

Fully implemented, the program should result in:

- a higher sense of the true importance of your office.
- an enhancement of the people's perception of the Elders as the Church's spiritual leaders, in accordance with the Biblical concept.
- a fairer and more orderly schedule for responsibilities related to worship.
- a more equal division of all duties and responsibilities so that the burden does not fall upon just a few.
- better organization and communication.
- the involvement of more persons (non-officers) in the worship service.
- the operation of an effective, ongoing greeter program for worship services.
- meaningful contact with visitors to the Church.
- more efficient contact with "prospects".
- more effective and responsive ministry.
- church growth.

In order to deal with questions and concerns you may have concerning the program, there will be a brief Elder-Deacon meeting following worship on Sunday, January 18. As you begin your individual involvement in the program, I will seek a time to meet with you personally to help to be prepared for understanding and fulfilling any new responsibilities about which you may feel uncertain.

Johnson, Donald

The Nudists; Spokane, Washington, Outdoor American Corporation (1963), (1959, Johnson, Duell, Sloan & Pearce) 177p.

This is probably the first historical survey of the nudist movement, written by a newspaper reporter who is sympathetic to it. I gather that it is primarily a health cult, mainly vegetarian, non-alcoholic, liking sun and air and an open acceptance of all functions of the human body. The most important statement in the book seems to me to be that this is a family pursuit, and that no child member (they are not official members until age 21) of the cult has been charged with juvenile delinquency, the inference being that most crimes are due to prurient curiosity concerning the bodies of others and perverted sexual interest, which is eliminated by open exposure and acceptance of the natural body.

I am favorably impressed by the argument, and feel that the movement is worthy of support.

Johnson, Dorothy M.

The Hanging Tree; New York, Ballantine Books (#28621),
1942, Curtis Publishing Co.; 1951, 1954, 5, 6, 7, author)
(3rd Canadian Printing, March, 1970) 223p.

Nine short stories and the title novelette make up this volume of excellent stories concerning the pioneer west. I think that the author has idealized some of the characters and their motivations, but she depicts them well, and their situations are portrayed accurately in the light of social conventions of the time.

This book was recommended to me by young Jack McKenty, and I'm glad I read it. Several of the stories, and the title one particularly, are worth re-reading.

FRESH CLEAR VANDIEWATER



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- Dignity and independence for our Seniors who are worried about their future.
- Effective management of our Health Care system.
- A fairer taxation system with a ceiling on personal income taxes and removal of the Payroll Tax.

Bring Back the Pride!



Johnson, Dorothy M.

Indian Country; New York, Ballantine Books (#29); Foreword by Jack Schaefer; (1949,1950,1951,1952,1953, author); (About Dorothy M. Johnson) 199p.
v.t. A Man Called Horse

These are excellent stories about the pioneer west, and some deserve recognition as classics. All can bear re-reading, but my favorites are "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" and "Prairie Kid", some others being close to these.

The author deals with human beings who are courageous but accept the conditions of their lives as inevitable, and are forced to fight for existence. Her portrayal of Indian customs and living conditions appears accurate, and heroism is tempered by acknowledgment of the weaknesses inherent in most people.

Realistic but sympathetic, and very well written, these stories are among the best I have read of their kind.

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Johnson, Dorothy M.

A Man Called Horse; New York, Ballantine Books (#01818)
(2nd Bal-Hi Printing, October, 1968) 181p.
v.t. Indian Country

See my notes under the variant title. The note about
the author is shorter than in the original book.

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Johnson, John

The Adventurers from Mars: The World's Fate?; Winnipeg, Canada, Published by the Author (1957) 48p.

Having advanced 10,000 years beyond the atomic age, and experienced the destruction of their earlier civilization by misuse of atomic power, Martians observe from flying saucers that Earth is on the verge of a similar experience. At a new observatory, they decide after viewing clearer pictures to undertake an expedition to earth.

An instrument which enables them to select a "common-sense" mind locates Charlie who with his wife Caroline is panning gold while on vacation. Charlie agrees to co-operate with the Martians in communicating their warning to the people of Earth, and they take him and his wife for a short trip into space near Earth. Rather gratuitously, Lucifer is brought into the story as a character toward its close which suggests that the entire "adventure" was a dream of Charlie's.

The structure, terminology, and treatment of this novelle are those of an amateur writer who has managed to capture without any depth of comprehension the feeling of apprehension voiced by many people that we are on the verge of disaster.

Neither the story or its treatment conveys anything more than its obvious warning. It is of no importance in a science fiction collection apart from its evidence of unease over current events.

Johnson, Martin

Through the South Seas with Jack London; Introduction and Postscript by Ralph D. Harrison; Photographic illustrations; New York, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1913 369p.

Having just read London's The Cruise of the Thark, I found this travel book a more interesting and detailed account of the voyage which took two years. Johnson was only 20 years old when the trip started; he was friends with Jack but refers always to Charmian as Mrs. London, respected her as capable and sportsmanlike, and said that during the voyage everyone enjoyed it as comrades, suffered fever and other illnesses equably, and shared adventures.

During the trip, Jack worked two hours daily at his writing; Charmian typed up his manuscript which he wrote in atrocious handwriting. Martin's first name shared the title of Martin Eden; the last name was of a friend of Jack's.

Although the climate and scenery in the islands were idyllic, the trip was made difficult by the diseases and illnesses which beset the personnel. The natives were for the most part friendly, honest and generous with gifts; no thefts occurred excepting by Christianized natives who stole anything they could. Johnson says that the missionaries demoralized the natives; some were good influences, others bad; but traders and doctors were much better influences on the natives.

Johnson devotes some paragraphs to Robert Louis Stevenson and his influence on the natives.

The best aspect of this book, however, is the light it sheds on the abilities and character of Jack London. Trial of a drug made him go wild, so Johnson did not sample it.

Tobacco was used by all the natives, extensively, and deprived of it was a hardship for them.

From near-civilization to savagery, the natives seen and their customs described make interesting reading.

This is a valuable adjunct to my Jack London collection.



1982 ALL-CANADA CONVENTION

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

REGISTRATION FORM EXPLANATION

This year there is a Women's Retreat prior to the Convention itself. The Mennonite Brethren Bible College is available Tuesday night for those wishing to arrive early for this event.

A. Registration ... We hope you will find this self explanatory. Please note separate registration for Encounter Groups. There is no Convention registration fee for children under eleven years. (See Day Care).

B. Accomodation... The Mennonite Brethren Bible College is passing along the \$8.00 per person bedding charge, in which they receive no profit. This bedding is for the entire time, regardless of how long you stay.

Children twelve years and under who stay with adults, will be provided with a mattress at one half the \$4.50 adult price... i.e. \$2.25 per night and their linen is \$8.00

C. Meals... For catering purposes, the Mennonite Brethren Bible College must have an accurate count in advance of the Convention.

You will note there is no supper being served on Saturday at the Convention site. The cafeteria will be closed on Sunday morning. Home Street church will be providing a light complimentary lunch following the Sunday morning worship service.

For children under twelve, all meals are half adult price, with exception of those three years and under, whose meals are free.

The C.C.W.F. luncheon has been combined with the C.C.M.F. luncheon because of our special speaker, Dr. Jean Woolfolk.

D. Child Care.... The cost of \$4.00 per day includes two snacks and a noon meal, and the child's care after breakfast until 5.00 p.m.

Johnson, Owen

The Coming of the Amazons; New York, Toronto, Longmans
Green & Co. (1931) 251p.

This is a very well written description of America in the 21st Century under a matriarchy.

John Bogardus is placed in suspended animation by hypnosis and freezing and awakens to find himself under the protection of Acquilla, a seven-foot Amazon, flat-breasted as women have long since ceased nursing their babies, which are placed under the direction of the state, who is bald but wears a blonde wig and is 70 years of age (less than middle-age under the new longevity). The population has been reduced until everyone has much wealth and living space; there are 25 women to each man; the men live in clubs and have become effeminate under the domination of women. Gravity has been conquered; the train and the automobile have been rendered obsolete by improvements in flying; and morals are dictated by the laws of necessity rather than by civil laws.

John falls in love with Dianne, and finds it necessary to disguise his feelings because of Acquilla's interest in him; but ultimately Dianne agrees to join him if he is sentenced to be again frozen to awaken in another future world.

As a sociological novel, this has much merit; it seems to adequately present the suffragette argument, but at the same time support the male-dominant freedom which John has left.

Although written in an easy style, it is intelligently thought-out and quite an important view of a possible future matriarchy.

Johnson, Raynor C.

The Imprisoned Splendour: An approach to Reality, based upon the significance of data drawn from the fields of Natural Science, Psychical Research and Mystical Experience; a Quest Book; Wheaton, Ill; Madras; London, The Theosophical Publishing House, (1953, author); 1971; Index 424p.

I finished reading this profound book some weeks ago, but delayed making these notes because I could not find words to express my admiration. Some parts are too technical for me to understand completely, but this book deserves being referred to for the rest of my life.

Although he is or was a physicist, his knowledge of every field mentioned in the title is so thorough that he conveys his philosophy of life clearly. The index is satisfactory to lead readers to appropriate passages.

The Foreword by Rev. Leslie D. Weatherhead who recommends the book with awe and enthusiasm to everyone. I agree.

This is a great book.

Chester D. Cuthbert
September 17, 2002

Johnson, Samuel

Rasselas Prince of Abyssinia; with Biographical Introduction by Hannaford Bennett; London, John Long, 1905 160p.

This is a philosophical romance, rather than a fantasy, and conduces to wisdom rather than imagination.

The story is simple: Rasselas is immured with other members of his family and retainers in an isolated valley called the Happy Valley. This is a Utopian retreat, where every wish is gratified, and where the princes are taught until the time comes for them to rule.

Rasselas tires of the monotony, and hearing of the outer world from the sage Imlac engages him as a guide. They tunnel through the top of the mountain until they can view the source of the Nile, then clamber down and journey to Cairo. They are in search of the ideal way of life, so converse with all types of people, weighing carefully in the light of reason the pros and cons of each occupation and of the various institutions of society. Rasselas' sister Nekayah accompanies them, she having surprised them at the time of their escape and wishing to do so, with her attendant friend Pekuah. When Rasselas investigates the great pyramid, Pekuah is abducted by an Arab chief and held for ransom with her two maids; when ransomed, she is welcomed back to the party and they encounter an astronomer who has become a monomaniac believing that he controls the seasons and has the responsibility for the world. By their friendship his mind is distracted from his mania, and he regains his mental health and joy in life.

After duly considering the panorama of human existence, Rasselas and Imlac determine simply to drift and observe philosophically, having been unable to reach any conclusion as to the ideal path of life.

This is a wise book, a good book, anticipating the best of modern thought.

See the Anthology, Shorter Novels Eighteenth Century, in which this story is reprinted.

Johnson, Wendell

People in Quandaries: The Semantics of Personal Adjustment;
New York and London, Harper & Brothers (1946, Publishers); Exercises, Appendix; Bibliography; Index 532p.

The first half of this book deals mainly with semantics and is difficult reading for the lay person. The second half is more interesting since it describes the personal problems of maladjusted people; and the author who was himself a stutterer devotes a long chapter to treatment of this disorder.

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The whole book encourages people to think scientifically and avoid accepting vague popular beliefs. The exact meaning of words should be understood and expressed; words govern thinking.

This is a long book and I spent more time reading it than I gained. However, more intelligent people praised the book, so it would probably convey more to others than I derived.

Chester D. Cuthbert
February 28, 2002

Johnston, Johanna

Mrs. Satan: The Incredible Saga of Victoria C. Woodhull; Illustrated; New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons (1967, author); Bibliography; Index 319p.
Toronto, Popular Library (1967, author) 288p.

The paperback edition lacks the illustrations, but is apparently otherwise a complete reprint of the hardcover.

Nominated by herself for the presidency, Victoria was an early suffragist and advocate of free love, had two children, a boy who was accidentally rendered retarded and a girl who was editor of a paper in England, where Victoria settled in her later life and renounced her previous beliefs before she died at age 88.

She and her younger sister edited a weekly magazine, supported their large and erratic family, lectured, toured, were promiscuous, and though Victoria was ladylike, her sister was a jolly tart. Both married wealthy Englishmen and died in relative splendor.

Controversy with Henry Ward Beecher because he would not openly admit the profligate life he led privately, and his winning with the aid of his congregation, drained her resources, and at one time it was impossible for her to get living quarters because of her ruined reputation, much of which was brought upon her by her eccentric family.

She became president of a spiritualist society and was clairvoyant from early childhood. It would probably be a good idea to write an essay covering her spiritualistic experiences and ideas, which the author of this book does not do more than report historically.

Johnstone, Charles

Chrysal, or, The Adventures of a Guinea; Edited, with an Introduction by E. A. Baker, M.A.; london, George Routledge & Sons, Ltd.; New York, E. P. Dutton & Co, no date; Index 520p.

Published around 1763, this fictionised history, following the adventures of a coin in the hands of its various owners, is told from its point of view and covers occurrences worldwide in satirical terms, but is the main source for information on the Hellfire Club. The author was evidently a sophisticated and informed person, and although the writing style has dated, there is wisdom and instruction throughout the book. Few praiseworthy characters are depicted, but isn't lucre filthy?

Most sordid details are omitted or suggested rather than expressed; I think this is the only book of fiction which has an index, in my collection. The index is not of much help to me as I am not familiar with history of the period, but it will help if I get time to study any of the incidents and events described.

This is a more important book than most novels.

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Johnstone, D.(avid) Lawson

The Mountain Kingdom: A Narrative of Adventure; New and Cheaper edition; Illustrated; London, Sampson Low, Marston, & Company Limited, no date 322p.

Douglas Dalziel, his friend Eric, and his dog, leave his widowed mother to go to Thibet in search of his uncle, who had been reported dead by a companion some twenty years before. They find him acting as senior adviser to King Timrac of Kisnia, a mountain kingdom where gold and jewels are plentiful, and silver and iron, being less common, are considered more valuable.

In Kisnia, the King has a council of thirty Caens, who are elected from the aristocracy. Douglas and his friends are made Caens for their prowess in battle and their knowledge of the outer world. They discover that Edwards, a travelling companion who has joined them on shipboard, is actually the former traitorous companion of Douglas' uncle; this man Nimmo joins forces with Asoka, a crafty nephew of the king who plans to overthrow him and usurp the kingship which had been intended for his cousin, a younger man.

A travel and adventure novel primarily, this is fantasy only to the extent that "lost race" novels are so classified arbitrarily. Like most of Haggard's similar books, only the final part is "lost race", the earlier part being devoted to the perils of arriving on the scene. This is not important in the fantasy field, but although it is really a boys' book, it does mention polyandry and that surplus women become temple attendants. Children are accepted in the families regardless of parentage.

Johnstone, David Lawson

The Paradise of the North: A Story of Discovery and Adventure around the Pole; with fifteen illustrations by W. Boucher; London and Edinburgh, W. & R. Chambers, Limited, no date; 302p.

Told in the first person by one of two brothers who, with the financial aid of the fiancée of the younger, outfit a ship for an expedition to the Pole at the behest of her father, who had made an expedition years earlier, this story is complicated by a rival expedition led by his former partner.

The usual perils and adventures are encountered and overcome, and the rival expedition is rescued after it fails. The brothers discover the Pole, and surrounding it a warm climate made so by volcanic mountains and geysers, and inhabited by a race of vikings who live in feudal barbarism and are unacquainted with firearms, and to whom they appear to have magical powers. The younger brother is admired by the ruler, who determines to have him marry his daughter; but by stratagems, the brothers escape, leaving the princess to her lover, a feudal chief who is determined to succeed as ruler by his own might, and who has befriended them.

Although this qualifies as fantasy by virtue of the "lost race" element, it is little more than adventure fiction, and has nothing much different from other stories of its kind. Reasonably well written, and apparently with some polar exploration research sustaining it, it is a "period" piece and a beautiful book, almost impossible to believe at its published price of 3/6.

Jolly, W. P.

Sir Oliver Lodge; Illustrated; Rutherford/Madison/Teaneck,
Fairleigh Dickinson University Press (1974, author; frontispiece
Index 256p.

I have read several books which criticised Lodge's belief in spiritualism, but his own books, including his autobiography and his philosophy and those devoted to psychic phenomena convinced me of his greatness and this biography claims him to have been one of the four greatest brains in England, which this book gives evidence that he was. The hard work and organising ability of great men is simply beyond the capacity of ordinary men like me to understand, let alone emulate.

If Lodge was mistaken in his belief in spiritualism, I am willing to be mistaken in his company. Most of my life was spent as an agnostic, but my belief was inspired mainly by Gladys Osborne Leonard, just as Lodge's was.

Lots of space is devoted to Lodge's important scientific work but this is known mainly to scientists and the general public is aware of him mostly as a spiritualist. He and Arthur Conan Doyle were the most influential advocates of this belief in England of their time, even though other great men were spiritualists.

Lacking any personal psychic experiences, the literature has convinced me in spite of all the sceptical books I have read. Of these, most are obviously biassed and lacking in thorough research. Some are instructive and cautionary, and so useful.

Chester D. Cuthbert
September 12, 1997

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— 1962-1987 —
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Jones, Amanda T.

A Psychic Autobiography; with an Introduction by James H. Hyslop; London, William Rider & Son, Ltd. (no date, circa 1911
16 Appendices 455p.

Hyslop's original Introduction was amended after the author submitted the appendices which confirmed her evidences and expanded others.

This woman, a dedicated poet in lifelong ill-health, was psychic from childhood, experienced many precognitive instances and had dead physicians as controls who aided her in curing the illnesses of people she knew. At no time a paid medium, she was guided and remembered clearly her psychic experiences. After publishing several volumes of poems and having several included in anthologies, she became an inventor and successful in leaving the poverty which often was cured by donations unexpected which were forecast by the spirits.

Probably the most important part of this book for psychic researchers is the space devoted to her exercise of psychometry. She jeered at Thompson Jay Hudson for his inability to accept the reality of spirit intercourse, pointing out that she experienced without hypnotism many of the phenomena which he attributed to the subconscious mind.

This woman struggled throughout her life despite frailty and efforts to trick her in business. She thought clearly and like other mediums often dreaded her psychic ability, but her faith was justified by results.

Chester D. Cuthbert
January 18, 2004

MANITOBA

Jones, Claude P.

The Countersign: A Story of Tibet; Frontispiece; pictorial cover; Boston, Richard G. Badger (1909, Badger) 305p.

Although this novel commences as an oriental adventure romance, with only a poetic prophecy of Kublai Khan returning "Not in the guise of a man" there are hints that a white princess is his reincarnation, who is to free Tibet from foreign domination. She has been brought up as a ward of a magician and under guidance of the Tashi Lama, a wise and good spiritual leader greater than the evil Dalai Lama.

John Bayard, Lieutenant graduate of West Point, his Irish assistant Pat, and James Wellman, naturalist authority on the fauna and flora of Tibet, assist the princess to evade being kidnapped by a fake jogi; Bayard falls in love with her, and acts like a mediaeval knight in devoting his life to her cause.

Tara, daughter of the commander of the Golden Horde Yutok, by her father's command has been a servant and spy on the princess for years and from childhood; but loves the princess, and falls hopelessly in love with Bayard who is attracted by her, but only because he feels that his love for the princess is an ideal which cannot be consummated because of her royalty. Tara redeems herself by dying in her effort to bring help to the besieged princess and Bayard, after having been condemned by her father who mistakenly believes that Bayard has seduced her.

Although this book starts off on almost a juvenile plane, the description of the torture chamber and its horrors, and the attempted rape of Tara just before she is wounded fatally; and the magical effects produced by Kazi, leader of the princess's forces, bring this romance to an adult level. Although the prophecy is falsely fulfilled, and the reincarnation theme is nullified, the story still qualifies as fantasy, and this book should have been listed by Bleiler.

Although well-written, the uncertain mixture of juvenile and adult treatment of the story-telling counts against this book from a literary point of view.

Jones, J. D. (M.A., B.D.)

Our Life Beyond; Boston, The Pilgrim Press; London,
James Clarke & Co., 1911 48p.

This short essay supports the position taken by Paterson-Smyth in On the Rim of the World. It accepts immortality, but warns against the practices of spiritualism as a religion.

Jones, John G.

The Amityville Horror II; New York, Warner Books (#30226)
1982, , Paul Kimiatian, John G. Jones, Kathleen Lutz and George
Lutz 396p.

This sequel to the original Amityville haunted house story alleges that supernormal events followed the Lutz family to California after they left Long Island. The are said to have passed lie detector tests, international interviews and to have finally been relieved by an exorcism performed by Tmothy Johnstone in England. This exorcist on page 395 asks if the Lutzes really experienced the events or might have imagined them, saying that the reality of experiences could not be defined. This is sort of an excuse for the entire hoax perpetrated by the Lutz family, the authors of the books and the publishers.

FATE magazine for August, 1982 on pages 106, 108 publishes a review by D. Scott Rogo exposing the hoax. In the January, 1983 issue on pages 22, 24 and 26 Curtis Fuller exposes the film which was just about to be released and in the April, 1983 on pages 113 and 114 Stephen Kaplan claims that parapsychologists exposed the hoax long before (in 1975).

This case proves the necessity of critical examination of all alleged reports of paranormal phenomena. It seems that the need for money will influence people to do almost anything.

Chester D. Cuthbert
November 14, 2003

Jones, Margaret

The Day They Put Humpty Together Again; London, Collins
(1968)

Note: Original title of Transplant. See my notes.

Jones, Margaret

Transplant; London, Sphere Books Ltd (1969); (1968, Collins, under title The Day They Put Humpty Together Again;) (1968, Jones) 156p.

This is a light science fiction novel about an artist whose head is salvaged after his body is riddled with cancer and transplanted onto the body of a highly sexed hoodlum who has died from a fall over a fence while attempting burglary.

The artist's wife refuses his advances; so does the wife of the hoodlum, who had been only too pleased to share her husband's proclivities with any women who wanted him. The surgeon's girl-friend serves as a substitute, also other girls known earlier by one or both of the components of the new body.

Although well-written, and an easy "read", this novel has little originality to support the mere idea, and is not of importance.

Shortly after the beginning of World War III, the Russians have occupied England and the British Government has moved to the Citadel of Quebec. Bernard Austen, a senior official separated from his wife by mutual consent and who has left her in England, with his friend Alan Shore a brilliant scientist who has brought to culmination plans for a transcontinental rocket joins an amateur Anglo-Canadian orchestra; they meet Denise Roussel a 20-year-old violinist whose immediate antipathy for Alan and love for Bernard lead ultimately to Alan's death by the "F.M.'s", Quebec nationalists who do not even realize that it is no single nation but the entire world that is imperilled by Alan's work. Denise is imprisoned as a suspected member of the "F.M." (Sons of Montcalm); and not until after Bernard has succeeded in his efforts to release her does she admit to him that the police were correct in suspecting her. Bernard is horrified to think that she may have contributed to Alan's death, though she assures him she hadn't; when Alan's plan is to be implemented, Bernard is notified that he must go to Vancouver with the Government, tries to persuade Denise to go, but she, realizing that his love for her is not so passionate as hers for him, and feeling that her loyalty to the "F.M." is at stake, stays. The Police try to locate Denise with Bernard's help, but she dies on an electrified fence near the rocket base in spite of Bernard's effort to save her.

The author seems to feel that any person - male or female - seeks and obtains sexual gratification regardless of moral, social or ethical considerations. Much of the story involves situations among the characters created by this factor. In spite of this pre-occupation, however, he has written well an intelligent story which impresses the reader with the contrast of life, love and music against destruction and death. His forecast of the effects of the atom bomb is graphic and frightening.

Jones, Robert Kenneth

The Shudder Pulps: A History of the Weird Menace Magazines of the 1930's; Illustrated; Index 238p.

Since I was never interested in this section of the pulp magazine field, I am pleased to have my judgment confirmed by this book. Aside from a very few exceptional stories, it is clear that the material published was hack work, distasteful in my view and apart from collector interest, worthless.

This book is worth retaining, however, for its information concerning many writers and their methods of working, for information on the editors and publishers, and for many insights on trends in public opinion, and censorship.

The index is useful, and should be adequate to guide me to anything in the book which may be of future value.

Jones, Raymond F.

Planet of Light; Philadelphia/Toronto, The John C.
Winston Company (1953, Jones) 211p.

This is a sequel to Son of the Stars.

Ron Barron is invited to Rorla by Clonar, with his girlfriend, his father, mother and sister; they are picked up by a flying saucer whose commander is unfriendly; and whose death is plotted later by other delegates to a Galactic Federation convention, suspicion for the killing being directed against Ron's father.

Ron feels that he is not being fairly treated, and is dismayed when he learns that earth's stage of development is considered too low to warrant its having any delegates to the convention. After hunting down the killer of the Rorlan leader, Ron is told he may punish as he wills; but Ron throws the responsibility back onto the Federation, feeling that it is himself, rather than the criminal, who is on trial. This wins him the Rorlans as friends, and they explain that he has merely successfully passed the test necessary to qualify.

At page 180, my copy of the first edition jumps to page 201, and I discovered that some pages had been repeated and other omitted. I do not know whether this was one of the books I bought from Andy Taskans, but I will try to borrow a copy from Bob Stimpson or Jason Pascoe.

Bob lent me his copy of the second edition of the book, so I was able to finish reading the story. Ron Barron at least is convinced that he and Earth people generally had come to feel that any superior race was like Santa Claus, and that Earth could accept gifts from such a race. The test was meant to show him that if Earth were to join the federation, Earth must contribute as well as receive. No other basis for equality would do.

This is a very good story, and confirms my respect for the author.

Jones, Raymond F.

The Secret People; New York, Avalon Books (1956, Jones)
224p.

This is the best of the seven Avalon Books I have read.

The jacket blurb gives the gist of the situation upon which the novel is based. About 3000 children look to their father Robert Wellton as if he were a god, but his oldest son Barron is a rebel who believes that Earth should be deserted and that the Children should go to the stars and begin life anew.

When agents of the Normals seek him out and kill his latest child, Wellton has just fatally wounded Barron in his attempt to stop the migration to the stars by destroying the space ship. Seeing the hopelessness of dealing with mankind as presently constituted, Wellton concludes that Barron was right after all, and that mankind should be left to its fate. This would mean extermination of man on earth.

Finally, however, he reverts to his own ideal: that man must survive and conclude its destiny on earth, and that the Children must stay and lead. No good could have come from abandoning the problems of man on earth: these must be solved and mankind must reclaim earth for his own destiny.

This is a low-keyed novel, but its message is important.

Jones, Raymond F.

This Island Earth; Chicago, Shasta Publishers (1952, Jones)
220p.

Sickened by the misuse of scientific research by politicians Engineer Cal Meacham solves the puzzle of a catalogue of unusual parts and constructs a thought transmission machine called an interocitor, which qualifies him to head its production for Peace Engineers, with full freedom to exercise his talents regardless of expense. He finds a psychiatrist girl who has assessed his personal qualifications is in fear of what is transpiring in the Peace Engineers, and a former classmate, a Swede, who claims fear from a discovery, and distrust, also.

He becomes engaged to the girl and discovers that the program is designed to support interstellar warfare which has been raging for millennia; gets ready to resign in disgust, but is persuaded to continue because the Peace Engineers have been safeguarding the Earth against the evil enemy.

When the Peace Engineers go back on their promise to safeguard Earth, Cal shows them that they are wrong, and persuades them to continue their defence.

A fairly interesting novel.

*If your life
is
really in a mess...
remember this...
... stress
can be the start
of real success!*

Jong, Erica

Fanny being the True History of the Adventures of Fanny Hackabout-Jones: A Novel; New York, New American Library (1980, Jong); Afterword 505p.

Alleged to be written by the heroine of Fanny Hill and in refutation of Cleland's version of her story, this is an apparently thoroughly researched imitation of an eighteenth century novel in a close imitation of that contemporary style. Because of the archaisms, it is not as easily read as a modern novel, but it has a flavor of feminism.

The author wrote an introduction to a modern edition of Cleland's novel, and says it is one of her favorite books. Her heroine's disdain of it is therefore merely for using it as a cause of her writing her "True History".

Although the sexual adventures nearly parallel those of Cleland's book, the torture, sociological milieu, pirate material, obstetrical background, and the legal status of the women of that time seem authentic. Jong admits that her use of Anne Bonny in this novel is fictitious, since nothing of Anne is known for the period of the novel.

Presented more in the guise of a sensational novel than as a historical novel, research appears to have been exhaustive and I consider that this novel may become important as both and as a companion-piece to Cleland's books in the field of erotica.

The plot is merely that a foundling is discovered to be an heiress who became the mistress in a brothel of her own father, and also the mother of her father's daughter. The last part of the book, dealing with pirates, is an important commentary on them.

There is no doubt that this book will become a collector item.

On page 130 is described an out-of-the-body experience which might be sufficient to place the book in a fantasy collection.

Note: See Anne Bonny by Chloe Gartner.

New York, Tignet Books (#AE1200), (December, 1981) 538p.

Jong, Erica

Fear of Flying (Signet #J6139); Scarborough, Ontario,
New American Library of Canada Ltd. (1973, Jong) 311p.

A neurotic, twice-married housewife, whose first husband went insane, marries an American psychoanalyst, and accompanies him to a Convention in Europe. There she falls in love with a British psychoanalyst, who is not as good a lover as her husband. Unable to decide between the two, she leaves her husband for a fling with the Britisher until she learns that he had planned to meet his wife and children long before he proposed their idyllic, carefree journey.

As with most modern novels by women, the minute details and materialistic practicality outweigh any deeper message, even in this case where the main character is a successful poetess. The author is basic and earthy in her descriptions of her heroine's sexual problems, and I would doubt that any man would consider himself bound to constancy in relation to her.

This novel was barely worth reading, and has little of permanent interest.

Jong, Erica

Serenissima; New York, Dell Publishing Co., Inc.,
(#20104), (1987, Erica Jong Productions Ltd.), (1988) 381p.

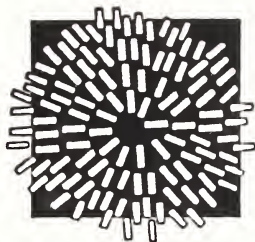
At a film festival in Venice a 43 year old actress is a judge of films, among them one of her own. She pretends she is 34, has learned in Hollywood to preserve appearances, and evades publicity to invite rumor.

Married several times and the mother of a daughter who lives with the father, Jessica has had many lovers but is sated and disillusioned. Attacked by a fever when her film is about to be judged, she is transported back in time to a period when Shakespeare and his alleged lover the Earl of Southampton are visiting Venice; her studies of Shakespeare have left her in love with him and she believes that she has seen the two men, that her father is the Merchant of Venice and that she is fated to be loved by Shakespeare.

Will and Harry attend a convent where the nuns act as prostitutes, and Harry has relations with a pregnant nun who bears a son later that night. Harry and Jessica escape with the baby, with Harry and the Merchant in pursuit. Harry has close communion with Will, and lusts for Jessica, forcing her, not entirely against her will since she is a sensuous woman, to succumb to his embraces.

With many references to the Shakespeare era and its theater and poets, and with references to the modern Venice, this novel is superior to the usual sensational production, and its time-defying fantasy is tied to the love theme. It reminded me of Richard Matheson's Bid Time Return.

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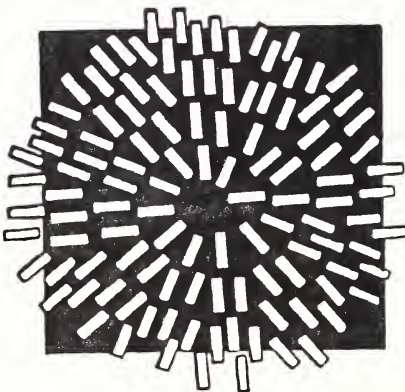
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Joquel, III, Arthur Louis

The Challenge of Space; Illustrated; Hollywood, House-Warven
Publishers, 1952; (1952, author) 224p.

In the Fall, 1997 issue of FANTASY COMMENTATOR Sam Moskowitz described Joquel's career in fandom, but may have been unaware of this volume of essays. It may not have achieved wide distribution because of its quoting from various publications without copyright acknowledgment, and also because Joquel accepted uncritically such dubious sources as The Stanzas of Dzyan and the Theosophical view of the Count de St. Germain. One essay "Our Atlantean Heritage" demonstrates the careful research characterizing most of the essays, but accepts the reality of Atlantis without question.

His essays on science in the ancient world and his knowledge of rocket research and forecasting space travel are soundly based on his knowledge of astronomy. He describes the Alexandrian Library and speculates on the missing years in the life of Jesus while he offers an interesting sketch of Apollonius of Tyana.

His enthusiastic support of Charles Fort's researches and his obvious respect for occultism are balanced by his enthusiasm for science and his optimism for mankind's future.

My impression is that Joquel wrote about subjects which had personal appeal for him and without regard for the opinions of other writers. His chapter on the origin of playing cards is the best I have read. Readers with similar interests will find this book worthwhile, but should always be conscious of the author's tendency to reach conclusions in line with his own wishes.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 20, 1998

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Jordan, Mary V.

Now and Forever; Dublin, Clonmore & Reynolds, Ltd.
(1948) 190p.

This is a Catholic religious novel, the story of Madelon Lane, a girl brought up in a convent and dedicated to the religious life, who fell in love with Dr. Michael Murray, a young intern whose father had instilled in him a hatred for religious belief and a love of science.

At first allowing herself to be immured, Madelon is by chance and just before her final vows are taken, when her convent is saved from fire by the apparent answering of her prayer, met again by Mike who asks her to marry him. With the consent of the Mother Superior she accepts him. Mike does not want children, at first, and when twins, born by Caesarean section, die as "blue babies", he uses the operation as his excuse for denying Madelon the possibility of having other children. She is against birth control, even by the "rhythm" method, and finally does give birth to another child, and then a fourth, all of whom die in infancy because of heart defects.

All through their married life, Madelon tries to show Mike that she has from her faith a belief in immortality, and that only his unbelief stands in the way of her perfect happiness. He, however, sees the convent and her friends the nuns as a barrier to his complete control of his wife; and though his love for her is unquestionable, it is possessive and denies her religion. He had agreed that she might retain her faith, and that any children would be brought up as Catholics.

When he and his guiding medical colleague decide to go to the south seas ~~xxx~~ to study and try to defeat malaria, Madelon goes with them. Mike invites Catholic Sisters to aid in the work, and as companions for Madelon, whose health has deteriorated following the deaths of her babies; and when the Japs, after Pearl Harbor, invade the island and Madelon is injured, Mike lacks the medication to prevent gangrene and the instruments for surgery, and only with the aid of penicillin does he stave off serious illness. Jap machine gunners finally menace the sisters and Madelon, and Mike defeats them, under an acceptance of God's grace, and Madelon accepts his death as a happy event because he has confessed and taken the sacrament before dying.

The miracle relating to the convent fire, and telenathic rapport near the end of the book between Mike and Madelon are possibly sufficient to place this book in the fantasy field, but I would prefer to classify it as a religious novel, and these phenomena as simply reinforcing religious belief.

Jordan-Smith, Paul

Nomad; Illustrated by J. D. Laudermilk; New York, Minton,
Balch & Company, 1925, (1925, author) 253p.

From a farm in Georgia John Howe enters the world seeking distraction from his disappointment at having his girl abide by her father's wishes, instead of joining him. John is a dreamer and idealist, who has let his farm deteriorate.

In the world, John accompanies a tall philosopher and a short rotund beggar; they seek shelter in a brothel from a rainstorm, and are royally entertained; they have a mystical experience of supernatural beings on a mountain; they meet the spirits of the dead in a graveyard; and finally John returns home to find that it has been maintained and improved by his girlfriend who has left the latch open for his return.

This is a mystical, allegorical novel, whose philosophical implications are more important than the story. Dedicated to James Branch Cabell, it is sophisticated and aristocratic like his work, well-written, and possibly wise.

I suspect that I have missed the significance of much of the book, and probably it is worth study. However, it is not the simple type of story which I prefer.

Elements of fantasy center around hypnotism, the spirit world, the gods and men, outlaws and citizens. Qualifying as a fantasy novel, it is even more an allegorical one.

Joscelyn, Archie

The Golden Bowl; Cleveland/New York, International
Fiction Library (1931) 246p.

Eric Hearle, a detective whose only unsolved mystery was a girl kidnapped in China twenty years before, is one of several guests on the ranch of Lon Leadley, a movie star, in Montana near Helena. Slowly he becomes aware that several of the guests to whom he has disclosed his failure, have a connection with it.

Several murders take place, and Hearle follows many false leads until he solves the case. The Van Horne brothers of his earlier case have been on the trail of the kidnapper during the intervening years, and although millionaires, they both assume other names, one becomes a Senator, and they find that the girl is now also a movie star, unaware of her early life, and that her kidnapper is also a guest under a different name.

This is a contrived mystery, the plot being its most important feature, and has nothing of permanent value.

Josephson, Matthew

The Robber Barons: The Great American Capitalists 1861-1901; New York, Harcourt, Brace and Company (1934); Bibliography; Index 474 p.

This is a classic portrayal of the personalities and the methods of accumulating wealth of Carnegie, Morgan, Rockefeller, Gould, Cooke, Jim Hill, "Commodore" Vanderbilt, and the other pirates who plundered the American public while empire-building through railroads, oil, steel and the stock market. The cruel oppression of workers is exposed; and it is hard to decide whether the genius at making money and expanding the nation justified the immoral and greedy actions of the barons.

This book must be retained for reference.

Joshi, S. T.

H. P. Lovecraft: A Life; Illustrated; West Warwick, Rhode Island, (October, 1996, author); Notes, Bibliography; Index 704p.

This comprehensive biography supersedes and corrects that of de Camp, and will probably remain the definitive work of reference unless new facts are discovered. It took me two weeks to read it and since the index leads to all information, no summary is required for these notes.

Fundamentally and psychologically, Lovecraft and I are so alike that I feel kinship. Yet our lives are opposites. He was a member of a fairly wealthy family who lost its money; I came of a farming family and have remained obscure but achieved financial independence while he died in poverty. He and I married at about the same age; his did not last; mine is now 54 years; he had no children; I have five. His life was short, mine is now 86 years. His fixation was on the eighteenth century; mine, because of early destitution, concentrated on books and living at second-hand; he travelled relatively often and was interested in scenery and architecture; I dislike travel and have little interest in the outside world excepting as an observer. He was a sceptic while I am a believer in the power of faith.

I am reminded of a short essay I wrote about the similarity of the lives of "Max Brand" and Jack London although their philosophies differed.

He died famous and immortal; I shall remain obscure. Yet his life was unhappy and despairing; mine happy and fulfilled.

Chester D. Cuthbert
February 28, 1999

Note: On October 25 the evening program on Bravo Channel 27 listed a program entitled "Out of Mind 78421"; my wife Muriel noticed in the description of the movie: "Out of Mind: Stories of H. P. Lovecraft. A man tormented by horrific nightmares discovers the stories of H. P. Lovecraft and tries to free himself from the reigns (sic) of terror. (R) 78421".

I do not have a VCR so could not tape this program. It was apparently produced by a predominantly French source, likely in Quebec, and the character of Lovecraft was portrayed by an actor closely resembling Lovecraft; the dreamer was alleged to be his nephew Randolph Carter; they meet in dreamland. the story was not impressive or convincing; The Necronomicon was willed to the "nephew" and influenced him.

Since this is a Canadian movie it may not be broadcast in the U. S.



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Joshi, S. T.

The Weird Tale: Arthur Machen, Lord Dunsany, Algernon Blackwood, M. R. James, Ambrose Bierce, H. P. Lovecraft; Austin, University of Texas Press, (1990, publishers); Appendix, Bibliography Index 292p.

This excellent critical study of these six authors provides information about them and their stories. The weird tale is not my favorite, but Blackwood, the absolute master of the psychic story is my second favorite author; only Merritt tops him.

I was delighted to find that Joshi rates Blackwood as a classic and understands him. Blackwood was never a popular writer but achieved popularity late in life as a storyteller on radio or TV. His stories lacked action and drama; they depended entirely on the mood he conveyed.

I respect all the other five; they were masters of their own special ability.

Chester D. Cuthbert
April 29, 2004



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Julien, Stanislas

The Two Brothers of Different Sex: A Story from the Chinese
Illustrated by Edy Legrand; London, The Rodale Press (1955) 51p.

This lovely little story about an elderly childless couple who adopt two young men after befriending them and their families illustrates the courtesy and care for elders which a belief in reincarnation instills.

After the couple dies, the brothers join in business and are successful; but the younger brother is revealed to be a girl, so they marry. Since the two have slept together for years, only the shyness of the girl kept her secret.

Although I personally doubt the possibility of this because I believe the sex instinct is too strong to have enabled both to escape experience over such a long period of time, this does not spoil the effect of this loving and gentle story.

Note: Translation from the French was by Frances Hume. The color illustrations are attractive.



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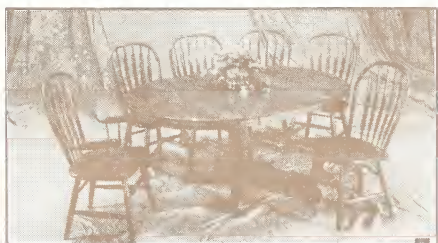
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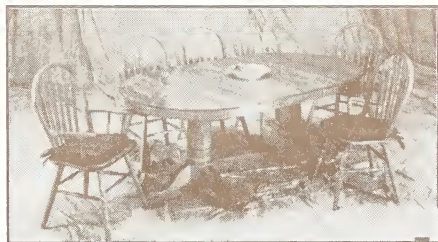
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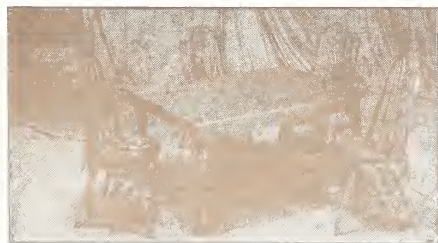
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